

Ceredigion 001 – [REDACTED] – Llanrhystud

Dear Boundary Commission.

Llanrhystud and Llanfarian are 6.2 miles apart joined by the A487 which has no cycling or walking provision. The area also has few buses the last bus from Llanfarian to Llanrhystud on a weekday evening leaves at 20:55.

The proposed boundary change proposals would disenfranchise Llanrhystud residents as they would form the smaller population at a distance whose needs would be less likely to be considered. Current Community Council meetings on Wednesday's often end at approximately 21:00. When no public transport back to Llanrhystud would be available.

Llanrhystud is two miles away from Llanon and has more in common with Llanon and Llansantffraed than Llanfarian. The proposal as it stands would remove representation and accountability and likely services and provisions from Llanrhystud residents.

Members of the boundary commission should visit Llanrhystud and its residents as part of this consultation. Showing the geographic distance and difference in person seems to be the only way to relate how adversely this proposal will affect Llanrhystud and everybody who lives here.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 002 – [REDACTED] (Clerk) – Beulah Community Council

Good afternoon,

I attach a response on the boundary consultation from Beulah Community Council.

[REDACTED] (Clerc)

BEULAH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

April 3, 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

Having discussed this at our meeting recently, Beulah Community Council feels that the work of community councillors will be less effective with the proposed schemes, rather than being more effective as is the aim of the modification of the boundaries between communities. Losing 5 councillors to match the loss of 21 constituents doesn't make any sense or make local government more effective. In principle we have no objection to changing the boundaries geographically, but the nature of the community hasn't changed e.g. no new housing has been built over the boundaries and the land features are still the same. In the current financial climate, does the cost involved and the proposed change justify value for money to the electorate e.g. will the current council need to be abolished and then a new council established, and the costs involved with this?

We disagree with cutting the number of councillors from 13 down to 8, as the current councillors represent a wide range of areas e.g. finance, agriculture and care. Our Ward's needs are care, agriculture, small business and tourism. By cutting down we risk losing a range of input to the committees, and service to the electorate. Cutting down to 8 creates quite a few more challenges for councillors to serve the Ward constituents in a sparse, rural area. With many councillors working full time, the requirements placed on community councillors are enough of a burden with 13 councillors. Given that being a community councillor is essentially voluntary work, and they are expected to attend courses, read documents etc., cutting down on the number will put additional pressure on individual councillors.

County Councillors earn substantial pay for their work. Community councillors' pay is minimal compared to this, and expectations for reading documents, consultations, planning applications etc. still takes a significant amount of time.

For reference, the figures in the table for Beulah Community Council (page 65) are incorrect. The current electorate total is 1452, which gives a figure of 112 per councillor, rather than 85 as in the table.

We as a Council beg you to give our comments on the proposed scheme deep consideration. Beulah Community Council intends to be effective for the benefit of our constituents, and we do not feel we can give the same service in having 5 fewer councillors.

Yours sincerely

 (Clerk)

Ceredigion 003 – Cllr Keith Henson – Llansanffraid Ward

Dear Sir/Madam

I should be grateful if you would consider leaving the boundary for this particular location as it is as residents are in process of building a new house on the part of the location which is due to be moved. They would therefore like to be (remain as) residents within the Llansanffraid County Electoral Division (P212 & 213) - <https://www.ldbc.gov.wales/reviews/03-24/ceredigion-community-review-draft-proposals>

Diolch

Keith

KEITH HENSON



Ward - Llansanffraid

Cynghorydd / Councillor

Aelod Cabinet - Prifffyrdd/Gwasanaethau Amgylchedd/Rheoli Carbon
Cabinet member - Highways/Environmental Services/Carbon Management



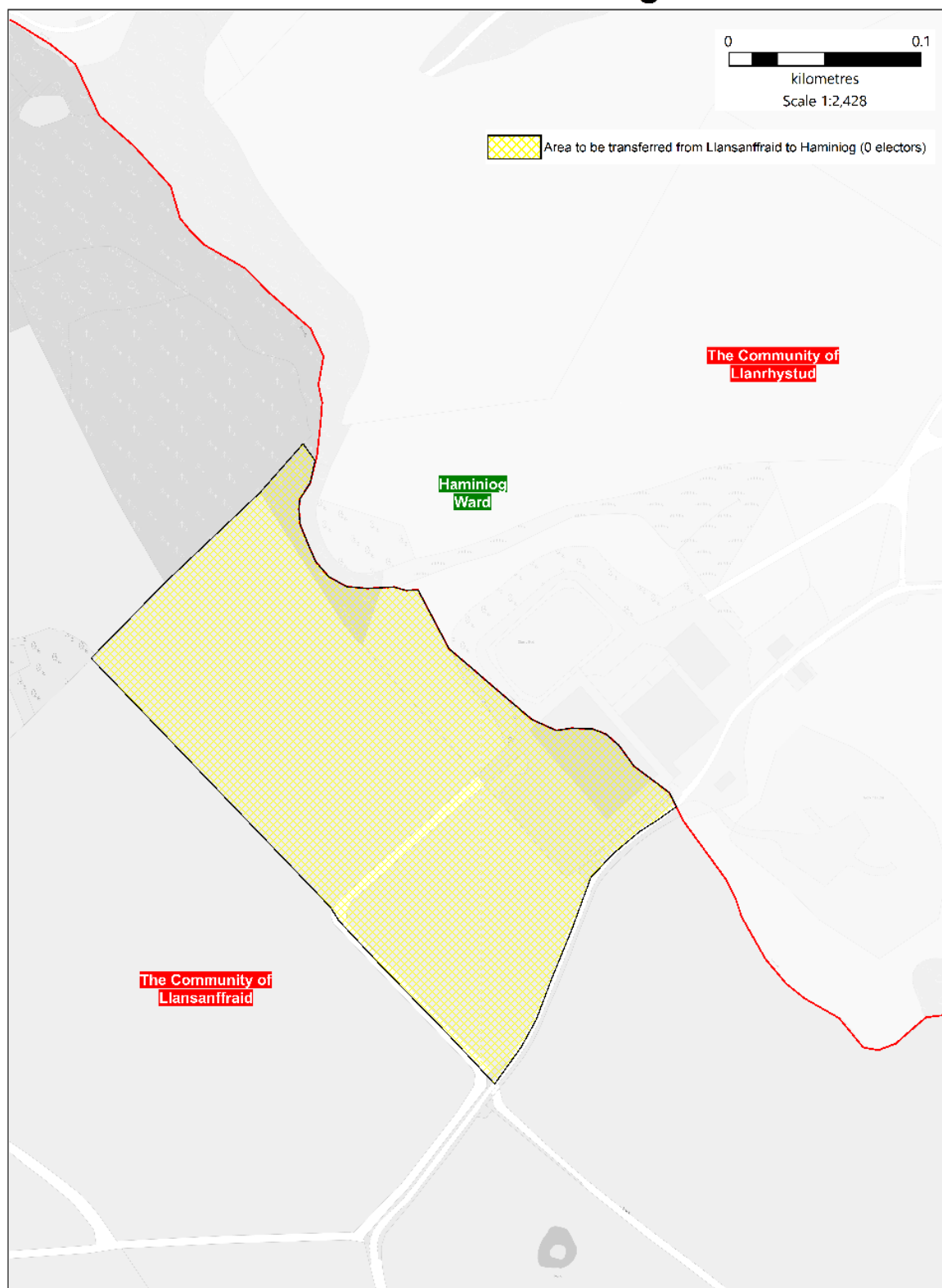
Ysgrifennwch ataf yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg
Please write to me in Welsh or English



Cyngor Sir
CEREDIGION
County Council



Llansanffraid to Haminog area



Ceredigion 004 – [REDACTED] - Llanbadarn Fawr

Dear Sir / Madam,

I write to you in relation to consultation of the community arrangements of County of Ceredigion published in March 2024.

I wish to discuss my comments and concerns as a local resident in relation to boundary changes to Llanbadarn Fawr Community Council & Faenor Community Council.

Following review of the consultation documents I am very dis-heartened and object to see Llanbadarn Fawr CC being merged with Faenor CC. There are 6 specific areas why I feel this way:

1. Llanbadarn Fawr CC has the electorate numbers of over 781 & 886 in both Padarn / Sulien which make it compatible under the council boundary guidance rules. Why was this not factored into consideration?
2. Llanbadarn Fawr CC is an historic village and has had it's own Community Council from as far back as the 1930's, why should this have to change?
3. Llanbadarn Fawr CC is a unique and independent Community Council. Llanbadarn has it's own chain of office with the crest of arms with previous chairs and name of the council inscribed onto the chain. Would Llanbadarn Fawr CC have to scrap the chain of office for a new one?
4. Llanbadarn Fawr CC as mentioned previously has its own crest of arms on the road signs into the village, on the noticeboards, playground signs and information board of the village? Would these have to be replaced if a merger of Faenor CC occurs?
5. Llanbadarn Fawr CC have been working incredibly hard on several community projects in the ward and particularly representing our communities bordering to Aberystwyth Town Council, I feel personally as local resident, Llanbadarn CC has worked incredibly hard to engage with community and I feel these will be scuppered due to a further enlarged boundary.
6. Llanbadarn and Faenor have a joint burial board with several members serving from both councils – the recommendation in the report to reduce the number of councillors from the commission would constitutionally change the burial board setup causing a significant impact to the running i.e. Llanbadarn Fawr CC is the clerk for the board and would disrupt the joint working between both councils if such a merger took place. This would need to be factored in as a consideration.

To conclude, I have weighed up the consultation reports and I find it difficult to support the opinion of merging Llanbadarn Fawr CC & Faenor CC due to the points discussed above. My grandad the late Cllr Ben Davies served on Llanbadarn Fawr Community Council for over 40 years. He told me the unique importance and history of the community council and how we should always stand up and

fight for the residents in the village. The boundary commission will need to re-review Llanbadarn Fawr CC boundary changes, I am of the view Llanbadarn should remain the same due to the significance to village and history of the council as a whole.

Kind Regards

A solid black rectangular box used to redact a signature.

(Local Resident - Llanbadarn Fawr)

Ceredigion 005 – [REDACTED] (Clerk) – Tregaron Town Council

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email and information about the review of Community Arrangements of the County of Ceredigion.

Tregaron Town Council have discussed the proposals and are disappointed to see that the current number of 11 Councillors will be decreased to 7 in the draft report. As a Council, we object to this proposal and would like to remain as 11 members. As a Town Council we are asked and expected to carry out a number of duties within the ward. With the current Local Authority budget pressures, more services are being taken on by the Town Council and 11 Councillors are needed to carry out this work and to serve the Community as best we can. All Councillors are volunteers and give their time for free and there is no cost to the Town Council or County Council for their roles.

As a Town Council we would like to know why this is being proposed? What are the reasons to reduce the membership from 11 to 7 members?

As stated above, Tregaron Town Council strongly object to the recommendation in the draft report to reduce the number of Councillors to 7 and want to remain as 11 Councillors for the Tregaron Ward.

Can you please confirm receipt of this email.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Clerc / Clerk

Cyngor Tref Tregaron Town Council

Rhif ffon / Tel – [REDACTED]

Rhif Symudol / Mobile – [REDACTED]

Ebost – [REDACTED]

Ceredigion 006 – [REDACTED] – Llangybi

To whom it may concern.

I understand recently that there are proposals to amalgamate the current wards for the areas of Llangybi (inc. Silian) and Llanfair (inc. Cellan) community councils with Llanddewi Brefi. This would reduce the number of councillors representing each current ward by greater than 50%. Personally I feel this is at odds with any concept of devolved governance and local decision-making, especially at a time when additional members are being added to the Senedd. It will be an erosion of our local powers to influence local decisions and further centralises control away from the local communities.

We are seeing what that is leading to with respect to the DNS and the moving of planning powers over these projects to Cardiff Bay. It is extremely concerning that with the current challenges we have with the swathes of proposed pylons and industrial wind turbines, affecting these communities, we need more support and representation to protect our environment and to continue allow our voices to be heard, and maintain an appropriate level of local democracy.

I strongly object to the proposed changes, and from first hand experience of working with local community councillors, they have significant workloads as it stands, so this will simply put more pressure on an already busy schedule for local community support.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 007 – [REDACTED] – Llangybi

To whom it may concern.

I understand recently that there are proposals to amalgamate the current wards for the areas of Llangybi (inc. Silian) and Llanfair (inc. Cellan) community councils with Llanddewi Brefi. This would reduce the number of councillors representing each current ward by greater than 50%. Personally I feel this is at odds with any concept of devolved governance and local decision-making, especially at a time when additional members are being added to the Senedd. It will be an erosion of our local powers to influence local decisions and further centralises control away from the local communities.

We are seeing what that is leading to with respect to the DNS and the moving of planning powers over these projects to Cardiff Bay. It is extremely concerning that with the current challenges we have with the swathes of proposed pylons and industrial wind turbines affecting the beautiful Cambrian Mountains and our communities, we need more support and representation than ever to protect our environment and to continue allow our voices to be heard, and maintain an appropriate level of local democracy.

I strongly object to the proposed changes, and from first hand experience of working with local community councillors, they have significant workloads as it stands, so this will simply put more pressure on an already busy schedule for local community support.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 008 Part 1 – [REDACTED] – Llanddewi Brefi

Dear Sirs

The local community is concerned as to why earthly power is being transferred from the hands of the many, into the hands of few. In Llanddewi Brefi, for example, we currently have 10 local Councillors who provide their time and serve the local community entirely for free. The State in its proposals is endeavouring to reduce what are effectively charitable manpower resources active in our rural community, from 10 down to 4 persons, whilst increasing waste and causing a negative impact on the environment with increased travel, dramatically increasing the workload of what are effectively our community volunteers and basically causing absolute chaos where none currently exists.

None of our Councillors currently accept any remuneration whatsoever.

Visitors from our neighbouring villages and towns are now starting to visit our Community Café, in our Village Hall, which is a new provision for local communities in the region and we value this interaction. We are not keen to see all of this hard work by far more than the few, being destroyed. We prefer to continue building relationships, utilizing our resources well, caring for our shared environment which includes our sick, disabled and elderly - vulnerable persons and young families, and avoiding waste at every opportunity.

Please outline the objective of your proposals so that we may stand some chance of comprehending removal of our current, 10 person strong and entirely free and voluntary; local, community resources who also manage our youth clubs, our cemetery and various events throughout the year that bring communities together.

I look forward to hearing from you by return mail, so that myself and my rural community which has already been reduced to largely nothing but a couple of buses to serve the area per day, may gain some understanding of the proposed behaviours you have outlined.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]
Rural Communities Wales

Ceredigion 008 Part 2 – [REDACTED] – Llanddewi Brefi

Correcting the email address of the First Minister., for inclusion.

Apologies

<https://phw.nhs.wales/news/rural-communities-face-pivotal-time-of-change-as-triple-challenge-impacts-take-effect/>

Ceredigion 008 Part 4 – [REDACTED] – Llanddewi Brefi

Perhaps we would be better served to agree a monthly meeting with our neighbours, to share ideas, rather than dismantling what we already have, that is serving our communities via its committed and free manpower services, (greater than 4!).

Ceredigion 009 – [REDACTED] (Clerk) – Ferwig Community Council

I would like to express some comments on behalf of the Ferwig Community Council.

1. 2 constituents moved from Ferwig Community to Mwldan ward - residents in [REDACTED] are worried that the boundary change to their house would mean problems in the future as their house and the land cross two boundaries!
2. On the part of the area to be transferred to Llangoedmor Community - this doesn't make sense - there is pavement etc for residents to walk to Penparc village - this is the closest place to them so there is no need to move the boundary.
3. It would make more sense to move residents who live on Gwbert Road - after a right turn up Heol Ferwig, (top of Trebared road) and put them in the Ferwig boundary. That's the residents of Gwbert top and down towards Coronation drive - this is a more rural area, and they have different needs to the residents of the town. This would also mean that the boundary follows the road/stream.
4. Number of Councillors - The requirements of the role have increased, and it's also a voluntary unpaid job – so there will be less people wanting to be Councillors. Also - when cutting back on the number, it will become more difficult to get quorum to make decisions.

Thanks a lot

Delyth

[REDACTED]
Clerk of the Ferwig Community Council

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 010 – [REDACTED] (Clerk) - Ysbyty Ystwyth Community Council

Good evening [REDACTED],

Please find attached the views and comments of Ysbyty Ystwyth Community Council on the draft proposal by Ceredigion County Council on the Community Boundary Arrangements for Ceredigion's Community Councils.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

Clerk to Ysbyty Ystwyth Community Council

Response to Boundaries Commission Proposal.

Ysbyty Ystwyth.

We as elected members of Ysbyty Ystwyth Community Council unanimously oppose the proposal of joining the communities of Ystrad Fflur, Ystrad Meurig and Ysbyty Ystwyth for the following reasons;

- No financial benefits, (all councillors are volunteers)
- Less community representation.
- Less local knowledge.
- Loss of identity and voices of communities will get lost.
- Historically these three communities have never worked together, due to long standing social and demographic differences.

Currently Ysbyty Ystwyth Community Council endeavor to represent each micro-area within the ward, these are New Row, Pontrhydygroes and Ysbyty Ystwyth. Under the new proposed regime, we feel that it would be impossible for two councillors to adequately represent the needs of each area within our widely dispersed, rural ward.

Having eight elected members with a range of skills enables this Community Council to provide a variety of activities for our electorate. This helps to build community cohesion and combat isolation within a socially deprived area with non-existent public services, e.g. inadequate public transport.

Moreover, within the last twelve months there have been several very serious local issues that we as a community council have had to deal with, which resulted in having to arrange a number of heated public meetings with our residents on matters such as;

- The proposal to erect a telecommunications mast,
- the sale of the parish church with serious consequences to those visiting the parish graveyard,
- threats of reporting councillors to the Ombudsman regarding the siting of a defibrillator.

It would have been impossible to offer the same level of engagement on these issues with only two councillors representing the whole area.

By increasing the size of the ward and reducing the number of councillors this will increase the workload for those elected, meetings will be lengthier and a lot of what will be discussed will be irrelevant in turn to councillors from the three separate areas. Inevitably, good councillors with years of experience and local knowledge will be lost. I can confirm that none of the current councillors from Ysbyty Ystwyth would be interested in standing for election to this proposed new ward, and as we already struggle to recruit new councillors, we cannot envisage who would want to take this extra workload on a voluntary basis.

This proposal is a major blow to local democracy and yet another nail in the coffin for rural Wales.



Clerk to Ysbyty Ystwyth Community Council

Ceredigion 011 – Cllr Roger Daniel - Llanfair Clydogau and Cellan Community Council

Dear Sir or Madame,

I am writing to you as Chairman of the Llanfair Clydogau and Cellan Community Council (CC) in Ceredigion, with the approval of the CC, to object to these boundary changes.

In our previous letter of objection, the Clerk stated that new Councillors had been elected and we were looking forward to developing new ideas and serving the community going forward.

Since this time the CC has :

- Developed a website.
- Supported, both materially and financially, a local community Saturday bus service running between Lampeter, Llanfair and Cellan. The CC received a 'highly commended' award, for this initiative from One Voice Wales.
- Opposed the setting up of a scheme by a certain individual, to sell land that he had bought, and had no access to. Neighbours surrounding this land above the village of Llanfair had been threatened verbally with being denied access to their properties. This matter is ongoing.
- Following a request from a Cellan and Llanfair action group, supported opposition to the proposed construction of an 'Energy Park' above Llanfair, and electricity pylons being constructed down the Teifi Valley through both parishes, but mostly through Cellan.
- Given money to local charities and a local male voice choir.

These are important issues that are best dealt with by a CC in touch with its own communities, and not by an arbitrary amalgamation of CCs. This would inevitably lead to reduced representation for Llanfair and Cellan, with only four representatives from this Community.

It is also not clear to me how the precept would be divided up equitably with such reduced representation. Llanddewi Brefi CC have a financial interest in their own community hall.

The villages of Llanfair and Cellan are in close proximity to Lampeter, where residents would go for shopping, medical needs and banking. I fail to see why they would go to Llanddewi for any of these functions, and therefore have any interest in this distant village.

Anyone with a grasp of local geography would see this, and not amalgamate Llanfair and Cellan into a ward entitled Llanddewi Brefi.

All councillors are volunteers giving of their time to serve their community, with a strong voice. Attending meetings five miles away instead of one mile, and with a reduced representation, in my mind, is unlikely.

It is the view of this CC that the boundary proposal document is not in the best interests of the local community, and does not provide 'more effective and convenient local government'.

Roger Daniel FRCVS

Chair, Llanfair Clydogau and Cellan Community Council.

Ceredigion 012 – [REDACTED] – Llanddewi Brefi

To whom it may concern

I have been a resident of the village of Llanddewi Brefi for twenty years and I am extremely worried about the draft proposals put forward in this review. Any reduction in the number of counsellors that represent our small community would mean our voices and our involvement in its running would be severely impaired.

In the last ten years we have seen the loss of our village school, our local post office, a reduced bus timetable and most recently our village shop. It has been a gradual but relentless isolation of our village which risks failing our precious youth and abandonment of our elderly.

Further budget cuts to our services such as street lighting, youth clubs support, grass cutting on the playing field, which would be a direct result of less representation, would be in my view utterly callous.

In addition it seems to me to be thoroughly impractical to propose that future council meetings would take place elsewhere than the village or community that is being represented, not least because of the above mentioned lack of public transport.

Please reconsider these plans as I cannot see any good coming out of them.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Llanddewi Brefi

Tregaron

Ceredigion

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Ceredigion 013 – [REDACTED] – Cellan

Dear Sir/Madam

As a Llanfair Clydogau and Cellan Community Council Ward resident, I strongly object to the proposed boundary changes which would see us amalgamated with Llanddewi Brefi.

Our Community Council, with the support of dedicated residents, has championed a local Saturday bus service connecting Lampeter, Llanfair Clydogau, and Cellan. We are all proud of this initiative, which has been recognized with a highly commended award from One Voice Wales.

Our Community Council has taken a firm stance against an unethical land sale scheme. This initiative, led by an individual with no rights of access to the land, has not only threatened neighbouring residents but also their sense of security. The Community Council's vigilance in this ongoing matter is commendable and reassuring.

Our Community Council has consistently shown its responsiveness to community concerns. In a recent instance, they are actively supporting the Cellan and Llanfair action group, Caru Teifi, in opposing the inappropriate construction of a '40 Turbine Wind Energy Park' and a 52km electricity pylon line. These actions underscore the Council's unwavering commitment to safeguarding our community's interests and well-being.

These are not just everyday issues but important issues that affect the very heart of our community. They are best dealt with by a Community Council deeply connected to its own communities, not by an arbitrary amalgamation of County Councils. Such a move would inevitably lead to reduced representation for both Llanfair Clydogau and Cellan, with only four representatives from this Community. This would be a significant loss for our community and its interests.

Please leave well alone and retain the current boundaries that serve us well.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 014 – [REDACTED] – Llanddewi Brefi

I notice that there is a proposal to amalgamate Llangybi/Silian Ward, Llanfair Clydogau ward and Llanddewi Brefi ward into one supersized ward called Llanddewi Brefi.

I have to assume that the only research into this has been done in a remote office as anyone with knowledge of the areas involved would immediately realise the reason why this is not a viable option and would definitely not “provide “more effective and convenient local government”

Regarding the Llangybi Ward, they support and/or assist with:-

- Local events, Barbecues etc
- 2 village improvement societies for Silian and Llangybi
- Local defibrillators
- Planning applications, with a detailed knowledge of the area
- Community identities and interests
- Village pride through gardening, grass cutting etc
- Amongst many other day to day occurrences

The proposals would centralise this into an area situated many miles away from the communities being represented and would send a message to the outlying communities that they are not considered important or worth representing. Councillors, who give their time and efforts to the community freely would have to travel long distances to a meeting that would probably last two or three times as long as at present, if all existing ward's topics are to be discussed. However, many of the topics under discussion will be irrelevant to a large majority of attending councillors. For example, Llanddewi Brefi councillors will have very little interest in the happenings in the village of Silian, many miles away.

Each council currently has different priorities. To try and amalgamate these into a single ward situated many miles away from the projects that were being prioritised is almost certain to lead to bad feeling. Projects will be dropped from the outlying areas in order to

prioritise the central area of the ward and therefore a reduced service will be offered to the outlying areas.

I feel that there are many more reasons that this proposal is ill thought through and not viable, and I strongly oppose the changes proposed. In my opinion, the layout of the boundaries currently used is satisfactory and does not need changing.

Yours

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[Redacted]

IT Consultant

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
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Llanllwchaearn Community Council

c/o The Clerk, [REDACTED]

19 April 2024

The Secretary
Boundary and Local Democracy Commission for
Wales
Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
Cardiff CF24
0BL

Dear Colleague

Ceredigion community boundary review

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the recent report, '*Report of Ceredigion County Community Arrangements: Draft Proposals Report (March 2024)*'.

We direct our attention mainly to the recommendations made in relation to New Quay and Llanllwchaearn on pages 44-50 of the report. We submit our response below and ask that you consider our comments as you prepare the final report.

1. Council evidence

Please note that Llanllwchaearn Community Council and New Quay Town Council have responded to your invitation to submit evidence to the process. It was the view of the two councils, alike, that the two areas should not be merged due to the completely different nature of the communities – one being a seaside town and the other an agricultural rural area which is a collection of small villages. The needs and interests of the two areas are completely different.

It is with disappointment and sadness that you ignored the evidence and opinions of the local councils in this matter altogether. You have not even seen fit to comment in response to the evidence offered. As a result, there is no evidence that you considered what has been presented to you at all.

2. Llanllwchaearn Identity

The 2022 Community Review Guidelines state,

"1.12 A review of community boundaries under section 25 should ensure that communities continue to reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government".

Again, we hold that merging the rural area of Llanllwchaearn with the town of New Quay does not serve to 'continue to reflect local identities' or facilitate effective local government from the perspective of the rural population of Llanllwchaearn, a population with very different needs and interests to that of the seaside town of New Quay.

You have been presented with hard evidence regarding the specific identity of Llanllwchaearn in our previous correspondence.

3. Projections

You base part of the logic of your recommendation on a prediction that the population of Llanllwchaearn is to fall over the next 5 years from 800 to under 600 people – although you do not specify the source of that projection. We continue to challenge that hypothesis, an assumption that stands in stark contrast to recent trends and our evidence of living in the area. You have been given solid counterarguments in our previous testimony.

4. Boundaries

We note that you have varied the existing boundary in three cases to include individual dwellings in other communities. We have no objection to those minute variations.

However, we regret that the Commission could not have been bolder and consider the suggestions we have put forward in terms of re-lining southern and north-eastern boundaries in a more substantive manner. Extending the southern boundary of Llanllwchaearn to the A487 main road would be perfectly reasonable given your recommendation about merging the communities of Llanarth and Henfynyw – a recommendation that will establish a community council that will extend from Synod Inn to Ffos-y-ffin and the vicinity of Aberaeron. We ask that you reconsider our proposals in that regard.

5. Name

We welcome your embracing of the form **Llanllwchaearn** for the new community ward and the county electoral ward. This is the form we have embraced, and the form approved by the Welsh Language Commissioner. (Although it will be noted that this is not the form you have used in the appendix which is on the penultimate sheet of the document).

However, in terms of the proposed name of the new council, we oppose the suggestion to call the new council 'New Quay Town' as it ignores Llanllwchaearn as the historical name of the whole area – the town and the surrounding country. At the very least we hold that the new council should be called **'New Quay Town and Llanllwchaearn'**.

6. Number of councillors

While saddened to see the number of community councillors so drastically cut, we welcome the fact that the two proposed wards are to receive the same number of councillors – four each.

7. Comments on recommendations regarding Llandysiliogogo

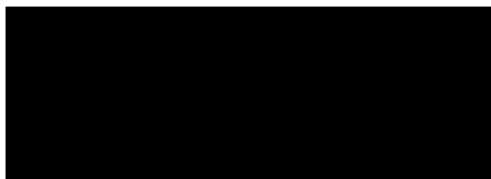
We regret to see the recommendation in relation to Llandysiliogogo – that it is to be merged with Troed-yr-aur and Llangunllo wards. For anyone living in these zones there is no geographical or social justification for this merger and the suggestion

casts huge doubt on the Commission's understanding of the local geography and social patterns.

Considering this, we ask you kindly to reconsider these issues and take a fresh look at our previous suggestion of merging Llanllwchaearn with Llandysiliogogo to create a new rural community council. This is the merger that actually '*continues to reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government*' in line with the main aim of your survey.

We trust that the above is a positive contribution to your survey.

Yours sincerely



Cllr. Gareth Ioan
Llanllwchaearn Community Council

, Chairman, Llandysiliogogo Community Council

Copy: , Clerk, Llanllwchaearn Community Council

Ceredigion 016 – [REDACTED] – Llanfair Clydogau and Cellan

I cannot believe that so much time and money has been spent preparing this “Consultation” I have little faith that your aim is to consult. It sounds as if yet again the policy has already been rubber stamped. Is its real aim to lessen opportunities for small communities to voice their concerns, thus allowing County Councils to ignore local issues?

Our Community Council (Llanfair & Cellan) has many young members who have enthusiastically implemented many benefits to our small village. How would we fare with a much reduced representation in the large proposed Llanddewi Brefi ward?

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

DEAR SIR / MADAM

I WRITE TO YOU RE-CHANCES
YOU PROPOSE I.E LOWERING OUR LOCAL
COUNCILER'S FROM 10 DOWN TO 4!!

I HAVE TO VOICE MY
UPMOST STRONGEST DISAPPROVAL TO THIS
MAD, STUPID AND INEPT IDEA.

REDUCING FROM 10 TO 4!
REDUCES LOCAL KNOWLEDGE BY 60%.
IF 1 OR 2 MEMBERS ARE SICK OR ON
HOLIDAY THAT'S A FURTHER 50% DROP.
AS FOR ~~ASKING~~ ASKING THEM TO COVER
TWO OTHER VILLAGES AS WELL!! THAT'S
PLAINLY STUPID.

IF I WERE ONE OF
THESE COUNCILLOR'S I WOULD RESIGN.
THE PEOPLE WHO DO THIS JOB ARE
"NOT PAID A PENNY" SO LOGICALLY THERE
WOULD BE NO POINT IN HOLDING SAID
POSITION.

I EXPECT SOME IF NOT
ALL WILL RESIGN FORTHWITH TO
REBUKE THIS UTTER MADNESS.!!

PTA

CONT:-

IF YOU THEN REDUCE THE FUNDING TO OUR PRECIOUS "VILLAGE COMMUNITY HALL", TO THE POINT OF IT CLOSING THAT IS PLAIN "CRASS STUPIDITY", WE HAVE SO MANY FUNCTIONS, EVENTS + SERVICES GOING ON ALL THE TIME THROUGH OUT THE YEAR.

FOR EXAMPLE:-

THE VILLAGE ANNUAL SHOW.
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS -
OF WHICH THERE ARE MANY.
W.I.

FOOT BALL.

YOUNG FARMERS.

YOUTH CLUB.

COMPUTER CLUB.

ARTS + CRAFTS CLUB.

THE MUCH VALUED -

COMMUNITY CAFE HELD
TWICE A WEEK, AND IS
USUALLY "PACKED OUT."

A LARGE GROUP OF
MENTALLY HANDICAPPED
PEOPLE COME THERE EACH
AND EVERY WEEK.

CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND.
ARE CONCERNED ATTENT TO.

Pto.

CONT:-

THERE ARE MANY OTHER GROUPS THAT ATTEND AND USE THIS VENUE ALL THROUGA THE YEAR.

EVEN CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAY PARTIES TAKE PLACE + WEDDING RECEPTION'S.

THE COUNCIL HAS ROBBERD US OF OUR VILLAGE SCHOOL BUT WE STILL HAVE A CHURCH FOR WEDDING'S + FUNERAL'S SO WE NEED OUR VITAL VILLAGE HALL COMMUNITY CENTRE TO COMPLIMENT THOSE FUNCTION'S.

YOU ARE GOING FAR BEYOND THE PACE TO EVEN CONTEMPLATE FUNDING REDUCTIONS THE COMMUNITY CENTRE MEANS SO MUCH TO EVERY ONE IN OUR VILLAGE YOUNG & OLD.

YOU PROPOSE THESE DART WELT IDEAS AND RAISE IN COUNCIL || TAX WICH WAS/IS OUTRAGEOUSLY HIGH. FOR THE ALREADY POOR SERVICES PROVIDED NOW YOU PROPOSE TO REDUCE STREET LIGHTING AS WELL!!

THIS SIMPLY MAKES US ALL CASH COW'S TO PAY FOR THE WELSH GOVERNMENT'S WASTEFUL SPENDING.

WE HAVE LOST OUR VILLAGE SCHOOL, PUB, SHOP, NOW YOU WANT TO MARK US DOWN EVEN MORE, WHAT A POOR SHOWER OF CARD'S YOU ARE!

(PTO)

CONT:-

IF THIS COMES TO FRUITION THERE IS NO POINT IN LIVING IN A DEAD VILLAGE.

I AND MY NEIGHBOURS WILL SIMPLY SELL UP AND MOVE TO A PLACE OF SANITY FORTHWITH TO ESCAPE YOUR JUVENILE, STUPID, SOUL DESTROYING IDEAS.

WHAT IS THE POINT OF LIVING IN "A DEAD VILLAGE"! AFTER YOU HAVE KILLED THE HEART OF IT!!

ALL OF US WITHOUT A SINGLE EXCEPTION FEEL "SO-SO ANGRY" WITH YOUR INEPT PROPOSALS, DID A CHILD OF 3 THINK THEM UP BECAUSE A CHILD OF 5 COULD SEE THERE DISFUNCTIONALITY AND POOR CONCEPTION PLUS A LACK OF REALITY IN VILLAGE LIFE.

USE SOME COMMON SENSE AND LEAVE US ALONE.



Ceredigion 018 – [REDACTED] (Clerk) – Geneu'r Glyn Community Council

In addition to the points raised previously 30.06.2023 (Below). Members of GenurGlyn Community Council would like to add:

That you consult with residents of Dolybont as to their views because of their demographic.

Geneur Glyn would prefer the status quo and stand alone. But would prefer Tirymynach due to reasons previously made.

Any merger would not provide any financial benefit or savings.

A Council covering a larger area would not necessarily be more productive.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Clerk

Any proposal for change, especially amalgamation with Borth CC, could lead to the following consequences:

- Loss of identity for an historic community.*
 - Pressure on the Welsh language in Genaur Glyn where there is a substantial native Welsh community. This would be because Borth, which would be the dominant community, being principally English speaking.*
 - Loss of financial resources from Genaur Glyn to Borth community council due to unfair dominance in numbers of Borth community councillors on any new council.*
-
- A larger community council parish could mean a greater number of assets to manage, competing pressures on limited resources, a broader, diverse community council with a wider variety of challenges and opportunities to consider – this could well have a bearing on Councillors time and ability to fully engage and participate where community council business/Agendas becomes even more extensive and gaining consensus far more difficult.*
 - Linked to above – in our case they are two very different community council areas with distinct communities and associated characteristics – local residents may feel marginalised.*
 - A danger that the smaller merging parish could be considered the 'poorer relation', where the bigger parish gets the lions share of resources, with the GG area constrained in its ability to discharge its duties and support worthwhile local organisations/projects to the extent that was previously possible.*
 - A lesser ability to respond to very local/bespoke opportunities or needs (linked to above points), where projects (eg tennis courts refurb, park investment etc) considered a lesser priority in comparison to other proposals from the neighbouring parish - how would the smaller merging CC ensure parity in terms of a share of resources or even votes at meetings??*

- *Socially Llandre has probably more ties to Tirymynach in that most families go to Rhydypennau school, Rhydypennau Inn, Capel y Garn, Spar etc rather than Borth. Dolybont probably more split between Borth, Llandre and Talybont in terms of links.*

Ceredigion 019 – [REDACTED] - Llanddewi Brefi

Thank you for the opportunity to reply to this consultation.

I live in Llanddewi Brefi and I'm deeply disappointed by the proposals to combine Llanddewi Brefi with Llanfair Clydogau (including Cellan), and Llangybi (including Silian). I am strongly opposed to the proposal, and respectfully request that Ceredigion Council instead follow Pembrokeshire's example of allowing community councils to amalgamate if they wish but not forcing communities to do so.

Contrary to the purpose of Ceredigion Council's proposed changes, which is to provide "fair and effective representation across communities", the proposal, on its face, provides quite the opposite. By its own figures, Ceredigion Council proposes to:

- **triple the size of our community council** from 513 electors in Llanddewi Brefi to 1544 electors,
- **more than halve the total number of community councillors** in the affected area from 29 to 12, and
- **more than halve our local representation in Llanddewi Brefi** in a new "ward" from 10 to 4.

The **sheer significance of the decrease in local representation** itself thwarts any argument that the proposal provides "fair and effective representation across communities".

Looking beyond the numbers and into the communities themselves, each of these councils is unique with a unique set of services and assets funded by its own precept and discretionary spending.

Llanddewi Brefi is the largest physical area compared to the other community councils. Our discretionary services spend is also greater than some of the other community councils, as is our need. For example, our Village Hall is considerably larger than the others' halls, and needs to be maintained and cleaned, with broadband and phone service supported. The grounds need to be mowed, maintained and kept safe. Our cemetery and churchyard also need to be mowed/maintained.

Should this proposal go through, it would require Llanddewi Brefi to cut its discretionary spending OR ask the other community councils to pay more to make up the difference. Either way you look at this, it's a lose-lose scenario for all affected community councils.

To emphasize what is at stake here, if we cannot fund the maintenance and upkeep of our Village Hall/grounds to keep them safe, open and operating, that puts at risk key assets and services which are at the heart of our community and have taken decades to develop and nurture, including:

- Annual events, such as the Llanddewi Brefi Agricultural Show
- Dewi Stars football team/games
- Caffi Dewi (a free community café, which is a WI project entirely volunteer run/managed relying solely on donations and grants and aims to provide a warm/welcoming place for people to get together to help fight isolation and loneliness in our community)**
- Young Farmers meeting and events
- Youth Club** meeting and events
- Our children's play area
- Our community garden (soon to be opened)

*(**These services have been identified by CAVO as models of excellence as community support services.)*

Our local churchyard and cemetery (which includes war veterans and war memorials) also need to be well-maintained out of respect.

The other community councils will likewise have similarly developed their own unique set of services and assets over decades that they will want to fund and protect.

Forcing a situation where some villages will have to be asked to fund another village's assets and services (potentially to the detriment of their own) is simply not workable. Far from providing "fair and effective" representation, this pits communities against each other for basic services, which is not only deeply worrying, but also (at best) counterproductive and (at worst) deeply divisive. This is especially egregious given that Ceredigion already has some of the lowest levels of services available.

Additionally, by reducing our local representation in Llanddewi Brefi from 10 community councillors to 4 ward councillors, the proposal more than doubles their workload covering a much wider area. As this role is voluntary, this proposal severely limits the cohort of people who could even consider standing for community councillor to those who have that amount of time to dedicate, which would effectively push out working people/families. That clearly would not represent a sufficient cross section of our community, as it does today. Again, far from providing "fair and effective representation across communities", this proposal severely limits the type of person who could serve.

Pembrokeshire Council's proposal of allowing community councils to amalgamate if they wish, is measured, reasonable and proportionate, and maintains local community representation where it's working. Forcing community councils to amalgamate is top-down and heavy-handed. Brutish map redrawing exercises have never had much historical success, and ramming unique local communities together to fight for scraps, even less.

At a time when only 17% of the UK population thinks government is working for them (from BBC's "Start the Week" program on Radio 4 on April 15, 2024 with [REDACTED], and at a time when significant changes are hitting rural communities hardest all at the same time (from farm subsidies to energy infrastructure), introducing changes that result in less local representation is not a good look for democracy. In fact, it's down-right damaging.

Again, I urge Ceredigion Council to back down on its proposal, and instead take a more measured approach by allowing community councils to decide for themselves whether they wish to amalgamate if they feel it's necessary to address representation issues.

I am happy to discuss this further and can be reached at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 020 – [REDACTED] – Machynlleth

I am strongly against the merger of community councils locally. We have an active and energised community. I would be really worried about under-representation on statutory matters and a further disenfranchisement of the voting public. This is the only time in our political lives where we are truly represented; the parish council is the representative who lives side by side with you.

I ask for Ysgubor-y-Coed to be made an exception to this policy due to the uniqueness of our current ward.

Confion gore,

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]

e:

tel:

mobile:

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 021 – Cllr John Roberts – Faenor Ward

Hi 

Please see my attachment relating to the boundary changes of Faenor and Llanbadarn Fawr.

Diolch.

Cllr John Roberts Faenor Ward

Response to the Boundary Commission proposed Changes

As the local County Councillor for Faenor ward, I wish to make comments on the proposed changes to the boundaries of Llanbadarn Fawr and Faenor wards.

The offered plans are meaningless as they are barely visible. If it wasn't for the fact that I know my ward well, they would be irrelevant.

Initially at the last election (2022) my resident number was close to 1700 which was the preferred number of residents in my ward, according to the Local Authority. Your figures show that my ward at this time was in the 1500 region. Two weeks into purdah I was told that Pentre Jane Morgan was in my ward elevating my resident numbers an extra 2000 which meant an extra cost to late printing of leaflets .

Whilst I have no problem with the minor changes to Faenor physical boundaries, but to join both wards together is ludicrous. It looks as though it is a crisis management reaction to the slow uptake of new Community Councillors in the community. The lack of councillor uptake shows the lack of trust that communities have in politicians. If the public are expected to take up these posts, which are unpaid, then they need to be treated with greater respect.

The commission claims that changes will make more effective and convenient Local government, and that community councillors are the interface between local government and the public. If community councillors are reduced by half in both wards, then the public are disenfranchised and have less contact with the public

Less Councillors mean double the work for existing Councillors, but the area of land covered isn't smaller.

Councillors' work is often exacerbated by taking the blame for senior decisions which the public see as Councillor decisions.

This consultation obviously comes at a price. Whilst many of our public are using food banks, and Local Authorities are struggling to fund services ,the Welsh Government waste public money by changing speed limits (£20 million), doubling the number of AM's (£30 million), further changes down the line are very controversial and costly. Welsh Government are content to squander public money on unwanted schemes like this.

It is no wonder that the public have no interest in local politics.

a.To suggest changing the boundaries indicated ever so slightly I **have no problem**

b. Introduction of new ward name **No**

c. Joining the wards of Llanbadarn Fawr and Faenor , **definitely not.**

d. reducing the number of community councillors , **definitely not**

John E Roberts (Faenor County Councillor)

Ceredigion 022 – Clerk – Trawsgoed Community Council

REVIEW OF COMMUNITY ARRANGEMENTS OF THE COUNTY OF CEREDIGION
Response of Trawsgoed Community Council

Gweler ymateb Cyngor Bro Trawsgoed, Ceredigion i'r ymgynghoriad uchod.

Please find enclosed response from Trawsgoed Community Council, Ceredigion to the above consultation.

diolch

Clerc / Clerk

Cyngor Bro Trawsgoed Community Council

[REDACTED]

REVIEW OF COMMUNITY ARRANGEMENTS OF THE COUNTY OF CEREDIGION

Response of Trawsgoed Community Council

Trawsgoed Community Council can not support the proposed amalgamation of Llanilar Community Council and Trawsgoed Community Council for the following reasons:

Difference in population

The two present Community Councils are totally different in their profile; Llanilar Community Council serves in essence one large, heavily populated village whereas Trawsgoed Community Council serves six small rural villages with a number of stand-alone properties.

Settlement patterns

The pattern of settlement differs between the current Community Councils. In Llanilar the bulk of the population is concentrated in a number of housing estates and some individual properties, whereas in the Trawsgoed area dwellings are very scattered, either stand-alone or in small clusters of houses.

Unequal representation

Currently Trawsgoed Community Council has 10 members who are equally split across the six villages within the current Community Council wards, where a majority of local residents are aware of who their Community Councillors are and feel they are easily approachable if there are any issues that they need to raise. Under the proposed arrangements, with only 7 Councillors instead of the current 20 (10 in Llanilar and 10 in Trawsgoed), inevitably residents will be far less likely to know who their elected member will be and most of them will feel less comfortable in approaching someone from outside their area.

How can a large Community Council serve such a large Community and treat each district on an equal basis when the number of elected representatives from the two Wards are not equal in number? It is anticipated that Councillors representing Llanilar ward would prioritise their own needs so that Trawsgoed Ward, with fewer Councillors, would be in a less favourable position. We witnessed exactly this kind of problem before 1996 when Ceredigion was a District Council within the County of Dyfed – the more heavily populated districts were able to influence policy and spending, leaving more rural communities at a disadvantage.

It is doubtful whether many of the present Community Councillors will wish to stand for election to the proposed Council as they would be expected to serve large districts which will be unfamiliar and where they lack detailed knowledge of the communities. Inevitably this will lead to the loss of valuable experience.

Payments to Councillors

At present all Trawsgoed Community Councillors elect to opt out of accepting the mandatory payment to Councillors, because they consider it an honour to serve their Community on a voluntary basis. This constitutes an annual saving of £1500 to the tax payer. With the proposed larger Community Council the responsibility and work will be far greater and in future more Councillors will probably decide to claim the mandatory payment. In turn this payment will come out of the precept request which will increase the Council Tax for residents.

Clerks

Another issue that will affect local residents through their Council Tax is that the Clerk's work-load will increase in step with the larger size of the Community Council area. This will entail extra hours and thus extra salary to be paid out of the precept, which in turn would add to the Council Tax bill, even allowing that there will be an increase in properties eligible to pay the tax.

Furthermore, the issues which concern the two Communities are totally different from each other, e.g.:

Public Roads

Trawsgoed has many small rural public B and C roads in constant need of repair and maintenance to their surface, regular road-sweeping and cutting back of hedges; many of the roads are single track with passing places. Llanilar, in contrast, serves mainly a main A road and B roads.

Schools

There are two primary schools within the proposed boundaries, Llanilar and Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn in Trawsgoed Community. The two schools are totally different in numbers and character; how can such a large Community Council support two such different schools equitably?

Village Halls

There are two Village Halls, one in Llanilar and the other in Llanafan in Trawsgoed Community. Just as in the case of the schools, they are different in both needs and character.

Graveyards

Llanilar Community Council is a burial authority responsible for a cemetery, but within Trawsgoed there are six cemeteries and over the years Trawsgoed Community Council, which is not a burial authority, has kept to the principle of not taking responsibility for any one of them because it would not be possible to take on responsibility for one of them without also taking on the other five. If Llanilar and Trawsgoed were to form a single Council, surely there will be pressure on it to become responsible for all of them. If so, this would drastically increase Council expenditure.

In view of all these important considerations, I urge you to re-consider the proposal to amalgamate Llanilar and Trawsgoed Community Council as one for the above reasons.

New Quay Town Council wish to keep the status quo as the dynamics of New Quay differ to neighbouring Community Council, Llanllwchaearn which is rural. NQTC is more urban and have different needs with a large population during the summer compared to winter. The reduction in Councillors is also not acceptable and should remain as 10 for NQTC only.

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

Ceredigion 024 – [REDACTED] (Clerk) – Llandysiliogogo Community Council

Good evening,

This is Llandysiliogogo Community Council's response to the community survey in Ceredigion.
Also included is our June 2023 response.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Clerk

Llandysiliogogo Community Council's response to Draft Proposals of the Community Review of the Ceredigion Main Council regions prepared by the Boundary Commission and Local Democracy Wales

- We note that no explanation or rationale is offered as to why the proposed changes to the Community Council boundaries are proposed. We have studied the changes proposed in detail and cannot see the justification or rationale for the changes. Also disappointed that no sort of explanation is given.
- In our response to the initial consultation in 2023 we set out to give practical, economic, cultural and historical reasons for our suggestion of leaving things as they are, reasons derived from local knowledge. We note that from the evidence in this draft paper that no notice has been taken of that information.
- We note that our ward meets all requirements in terms of population numbers and councillor numbers etc. We therefore note again that reasons are not offered for the changes in this draft paper.
- We note that the proposals put forward in this paper turn community councils into huge areas with the number of people per councillor increasing dramatically, but that would not save money as the councillors all do our work voluntarily. Again, we note that no explanation is given for the benefits of this. We're really worried about this attack on democracy and that understanding that better decisions are being made closer to the people.
- We note that a few councils designate a different number of councillors to represent different areas within the Council, without equal numbers. This can raise real problems.
- We understand that the Welsh Boundary and Local Democracy Commission has been commissioned on behalf of Ceredigion Council to carry out this work. We also understand that the Commission is reporting back to the Welsh Government. I would like an explanation of how, when commissioned by one body, the reporting back happens to another body?
- We would also like clarification, which we are unable to find in this draft of:
 - As for the proposed changes, say two existing Community Councils becoming a big one in the future, what happens in terms of the level of precept? Can two different precepts be built within one community ward, or would one level have to be agreed across the new ward?

- Also, is there any proposal that the money raised within an area can be protected for the use of that area or (with reference to the problem we raise in point 5 above and the proposal according to this draft paper that more members come from one of the old Community councils than the other), would it be possible for councillors of one old area, who have the majority in number, win every vote on the use of the precept to their area?

Included again in our response on this occasion I would like you to consider once again our response to last year's consultation. Would you please read it again, with the recognition from the outset that this Community Council has special expertise and knowledge of the local area and the needs of its people.

**Llandysiliogogo Community Council's response to the Boundary and
Local Democracy Commission Community Review May/June 2023**

We note that we believe that the boundaries of Llandysiliogogo Community Council should remain as they are for these reasons:

- We see no reason or justification for changing them
- The Community Council meets the Council Size Policy – with over 800 constituents within the Community Council catchment area
- We believe that the local identity of all the villages and hamlets is similar and good roads connect all the Community Council.
- The boundary largely follows natural boundaries of hills and rivers from Talgarreg, up Banc Siôn Cwilt and then the length of the sea. In fact, standing on Banc Siôn Cwilt you can see the full extent of Llandysiliogogo, which is wonderful. It can be argued that this also respects the historic catchment area of Banc Siôn Cwilt, I suspect the late T Llew Jones would agree with this.
- The A487 is now a split through the centre of Llandysiliogogo but this is arguably even more reason to keep the Community Council as it is, to retain the traditional joint, despite the ridicule of the makeshift 'rift' that needs to be crossed.
- All the villages and hamlets within Llandysiliogogo council are very similar to each other and face the same challenges, for example:
 - they are ageing communities
 - they suffer from a lack of public transport
 - Influx means language and cultural challenges
 - they are areas heavily dependent on agriculture and unsustainable tourism
 - their populations are similar, and the nature of the housing stock is similar

Ceredigion 025 – [REDACTED] – Llanfair Clydogau and Cellan

To the Local Community and Boundary Commission

I am writing to you as a member of the communities of the Llanfair Clydogau and Cellan, I wish to object to these boundary changes.

Our community council is local and in touch with its communities and its members, this apparent arbitrary amalgamation of community councils only appears to ensure further disenfranchisement of democratic engagement. It would inevitably lead to reduced representation for Llanfair and Cellan, with only four representatives from this Community.

It is not clear to me how the precept could be divided up equitably with such reduced representation, and Llanddewi Brefi CC having the larger representation with a financial interest in their community hall, this could lead to some uncomfortable confrontation.

The villages of Llanfair and Cellan are in closer proximity to Lampeter, where the residents go for shopping, medical needs and banking. There is no synergy that makes this plan even logical, and I fail to see why the residents of Cellan and Llanfair when Lampeter is closer and provides many things than Llanddewi cannot provide therefore why would we have any interest in this distant village.

A simple grasp of local geography would see that this amalgamation of Llanfair and Cellan into a ward entitled Llanddewi Brefi is not only counter intuitive but likely to reduce the involvement of the populations in local democracy to the detriment of all but the professional politicians.

All councillors are volunteers giving of their time to serve their community, with a strong voice. Attending meetings five miles away instead of one mile, means even less people will be prepared to engage and with a reduced representation even less choice, so reduces the engagement of even more members of our community.

In my view of the boundary proposal changes in this document is not in the best interests of the local community, and does not provides 'more effective and convenient local government'

These changes do not appear to be about providing effective local democratic decision making for local communities, but to stifle it and gag the local communities ability to have a voice of their own.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 026 – [REDACTED] – Llanddewi Brefi

I wish to object to the proposed boundary changes in my area I feel that it will affect my life considerably the village hall is the hub of our community providing us with entertainment, football on a Saturday sports and fun venue for the children your proposal will kill off our village

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 027 – [REDACTED] – Llanddewi Brefi

I wish to object to the proposed boundary changes in my area I feel that it will affect my life considerably the village hall is the hub of our community providing us with entertainment, football on a Saturday sports and fun venue for the children your proposal will kill off our village

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Llanddewi Brefi

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 028 – [REDACTED] – Ysbyty Ystwyth

I wish to object to the proposed changes to our Community Council boundaries. Our Council members work extremely hard for our Community and I feel a combined Council, as per the proposal, will not be so in touch with the local issues

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ysbyty Ystwyth

Ceredigion 029 – [REDACTED] – Furnace

To Whom It May Concern

Please note that I am NOT in support of the amalgamation of the Community Councils for the villages of Furnace, Eglwys Fach,

Glandyfi with Talybont and Llangynfelyn.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Furnace, Machynlleth. [REDACTED]

Ceredigion 030 – [REDACTED] – Eglwysfach

I write from Ysgubor y Coed as a private individual.

The proposal is to amalgamate the local wards of Ysgubor y Coed, Llangynfelin and Ceulanamaesmawr allowing us 8 councillors in total, Ysgubor y Coed having only one. You have had many letters giving different reasons not to confine us to such sparse representation. These are my views:

I know most of the members of the Ysgubor y Coed Community Council and respect them as people concerned with the good of the community. They have all been on and off the council, depending on their own work commitments, thus adding to their own experience. Some have retired from work, some are environmentalists, some in business. They represent us well and the work is shared between them. One councillor would not be able to represent us and would be overwhelmed by the work, especially if they had a job. We think that Ysgubor y Coed is a very diverse and large area needing greater representation at this grassroots level.

I strongly believe that one way of destroying a community of any sort is by attacking its basic structure. I have experienced this myself in a former job when departments were put together into 'pools', and the secretaries, who were regarded as links to the departments, were put into a 'school' typing pool. The university lost everything that made it a community and has never been the same since. Please don't do this to us!

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Eglwysfach, [REDACTED]

Ceredigion 031 – [REDACTED] – Llanddewi Brefi

I am writing to air my concerns about the proposed review of the Llanddewi Brefi Community Council. I understand that the proposal is to amalgamate the three Community Councils of Llanddewi Brefi, Llangybi and Llanfair Clydogau. Each of these areas would become wards in the new Community Council and the existing precept would be re-distributed meaning that the Llanddewi ward would have a reduction of about £3500 compared to the existing budget. This would mean that several important services would have to be reduced or stopped. Suggested savings include grass cutting at the playing field and the cemetery, street lights would not be lit overnight, the village Christmas tree and lights would not be provided and the village community centre would lose its telephone and internet connection. Maintenance and cleaning of the hall would cease leading to the venue no longer being available. The hall is currently used regularly by several groups including the Women's Institute, the Dewi Stars football club, the youth club, the Young Farmers and Cafi Dewi. The Cafi has been a great success since opening last October and is popular with both local people and visitors from outside the community. This is a very useful hub for people to meet and socialise twice a week and along with the other earlier mentioned organisations would be sorely missed if they were unable to continue. In addition the centre is the venue for the annual show, the summer carnival and village Christmas events. The Community Centre is an important resource to the village and its use brings people together and fosters well being in the community.

I believe that the proposed change to the Community Council would be a retrograde step and respectfully request that it is not implemented.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Llanddewi Brefi

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 032 – [REDACTED] – Furnace

Dear Sir/Madam

As a resident of Furnace,

I am writing to say that I am strongly opposed to the proposed merging of the 3 community Councils Ysguborycoed, Llangynfelyn, Ceulan Maesmawr, and Talybont. The main issues and actions of

Ysguborycoed would be watered down, dominated by the issues of the larger community areas, losing focus on Ysguborycoed main issues eg speed limits through the 3 villages, footpath provision etc

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

Dear Friend.

Please find attached Llanfihangel Ystrad Community Council's response to the draft proposals outlined in the document 'Ceredigion Community Survey.

With thanks in advance to you for your kind attention to the comments.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Clerk

Llanfihangel Ystrad Community Council's response to the proposed boundary changes outlined in the Review of the Community Changes for Ceredigion, March 2024.

Our opposition to the recommended change (348) is as follows:

1. Historial & Current Cotext. Llanfihangel Ystrad CC has already been the subject of boundary changes. In 1987, the Ward of Dihewyd was merged with that of Llanfihangel Ystrad. The change was unopposed due to the natural and organic relationship between the Wards based on their being elements of the wider socio-economic area of Dyffryn Aeron, well recognised and reaffirmed in 2024 in the naming of the new area school as **Ysgol Dyffryn Aeron**. The new school's pupils will come from the communities of **Dihewyd, Felinfach and Ciliau Aeron**. Such a geo-cultural affinity has not, and does not exist, with the Llanwnnen Ward which is recognized as part of the mid Teifi Valley socio-economic area (Lampeter / Llanwenog).

2. Response in regard of the consultation's stated:

2.1 Council Size Policy. With over 800 constituents Llanfihangel Ystrad Community Council meets this requirement.

2.2 Representation. Although a desired councillor/constituents ratio is given for urban areas, no such guidance is provided for rural councils.

2.2.1 The 1987 constituency change entailed the loss of 1 councillor from the former Dihewyd ward – an under-representation per electors in comparison with neighbouring wards. **2.2.2**

2.2.2 Recommendation 192-214 states that “...the commission is of the opinion that a community council with 8 members would provide for fair representation across the new community area”.

This recommendation regarding a neighbouring rural ward is inconsistent with the commission’s suggestion that the proposed merger of Llanfihangel Ystrad and Llanwnnen – a significant demographic and geographic enlargement – could be served by just 7 councillors.

3. Effective representation.

Such a reduction in representation would clearly be detrimental to the commission’s aim of “...**achieving effective and convenient local government**” with particular regard to...

- 3.1 the reduced representatives’ capacity to meet the inter-linked socio-economic challenges of (i) the outward migration of young people and (2) the inward migration of an older generation
- 3.2 the implicit reduction in local knowledge (people / property / infrastructure / history) – a key element at this purposefully ground-level local government – effectively taking the ‘community’ out of the very being of the community council.
- 3.3 Due to the absence of historic and cultural affinity as well as the diversity of socio-economic gravity the proposed merger of wards would create a constituency that would have little credibility as a relevant and effective unit of local government.

- 3.4 The proposed enlarged constituency coupled with diminished representation has the potential to make the role of community councillor even less attractive than it presently is, a development that would make the maintenance of effective representation significantly more challenging.

4 **De-centralising Local Government**

In Ceredigion's recent meeting with Town and Community Council representatives (31/1/24) it was stated that **"a more decentralised society is healthy one. ...(W)e need to look at this as an opportunity for Town and Community Councils to step up."** Cutting the number of councillors and enlarging the constituency is clearly at odds with this aim of making local government more, not less, local.

5 **Proposed changes regarding 'specific dwellings' (350, 351,353, 354, 355)**

There is a general consensus that registering split ward dwellings be officially recognised in one Ward as drawn up by the Commission.

6 **Conclusions**

- 6.1 A forced merger of the Llanfihangel Ystrad and Llanwnnen Wards would detrimentally affect relationships between communities – a danger recognized by the commission itself.
- 6.2 It is our considered belief that, as it is, the Llanfihangel Ystrad wards meets the requirements of the commission's aim of securing demographically fair and effective representation and that its merger with the Llanwnnen ward would not only diminish effective

representation in these rural wards but would also further diminish the democratic relevance of this level of local governance in Ceredigion.

Chairman and members of Llanfihangel Ystrad Community Council

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES PROPOSALS for TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCILS IN CEREDIGION THE RESPONSE FROM FAENOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Faenor Community Council has considered the proposed changes to the boundaries of Community Councils in Ceredigion put forward by the Commission. The following is the unanimous view of the Council.

- 1) The Council **accepts** the minor changes to Faenor Community Council boundaries proposed by the Commission. These are minor changes which remove some historic anomalies.
- 2) The Council **rejects** the proposal from the Commission to merge Faenor Community Council and Llanbadarn Fawr Council into one new Community Council. The reasons for this rejection are given below.

Geography

The map on page 118 of the Commission report shows the long common boundary between the two Councils. At first sight, it looks obvious that with such a long common boundary, these two separate Community Councils could be merged into one, larger and more efficient Council.

What is missing from the map is any consideration of relief – the shape of the land on the ground. Most of Llanbadarn Fawr is close to sea level. Most of the Waunfawr ward is about 300 feet above sea level. Llanbadarn Fawr and Waunfawr are as different as chalk and cheese in their geography.

The inhabited settlements of Faenor ward (Comins Coch and Capel Dewi) are remote from Llanbadarn Fawr. (The common boundary between Faenor ward and Padarn ward passes through areas of very low population density.)

So geographically, Faenor Community Council and Llanbadarn Fawr Community Council are separate distinct entities; and there is no good reason to combine them.

History

Llanbadarn Fawr is a long-established community which pre-dates the founding of Aberystwyth by several hundred years. It is centred around St Padarn's Church.

By contrast, the settlements which together make up Faenor Community Council are much more recent. Most of the houses in Waunfawr and Comins Coch were built from the 1970's onwards to accommodate the increased numbers of people working in Aberystwyth. Pentre Jane Morgan was built even more recently to accommodate the growing number of students at Aberystwyth University.

The employment, social and family links of most people living in the Faenor Community Council area are with Aberystwyth, rather than Llanbadarn Fawr.

Finance

The potential effect of Community Council mergers on future council tax bills was probably not considered by the Commission. For some of the mergers proposed by the Commission, there may well be no significant effect on future council tax bills; but the proposed merger between Faenor Community Council and Llanbadarn Fawr Council would result in a significant increase in the council tax bills paid by Faenor residents (and a corresponding reduction in the bills of Llanbadarn Fawr residents).

The reason for this difference between the two Councils is buried in the way the council tax system works, and is explained below.

The council tax bill is made up of three components: the largest part for Ceredigion County Council, a smaller part for Dyfed Powys Police, and a very small part (typically around 2% of the whole bill) for the Town or Community Council. Here are the figures for the 2024/25 financial year.

	Tax Base	Precept	Band D charge
Llanbadarn Fawr	893.28	£49,282	£55.17
Faenor	827.91	£33,811	£40.84
Proposed new merged Council	1,721.19	£83,094	£48.28

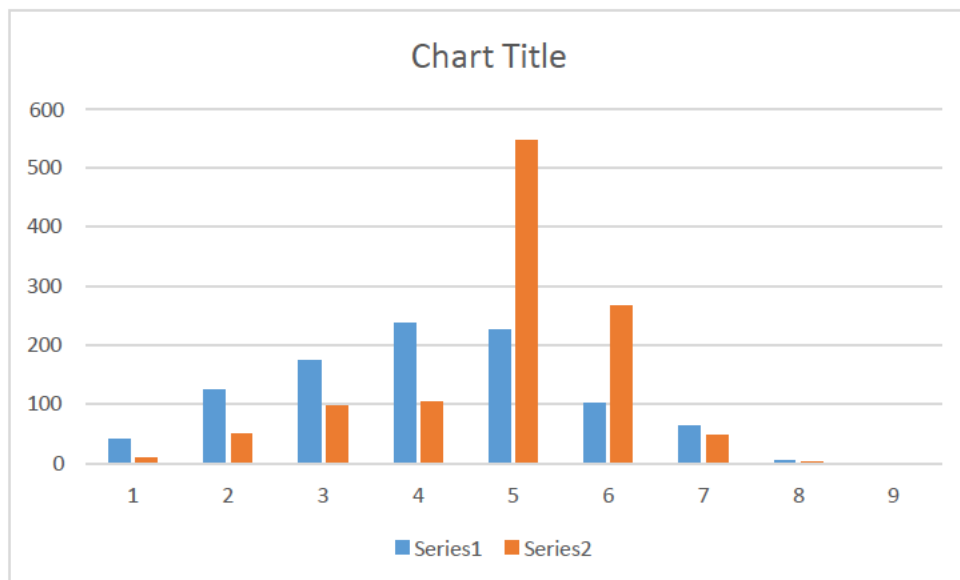
If the proposed new Council raised exactly the same total precept as the two existing councils it would have to levy a charge of £48.28 on a band D property. Llanbadarn Fawr residents would see a **reduction** in the Community Council component of their council tax from £55.17 to £48.28, while Faenor residents would see an **increase** from £40.84 to £48.28. This would be an arbitrary and unfair, long-term increase in the council tax burden on our residents, which we consider to be completely unacceptable.

The main cause of this unfairness for our residents is the distribution of properties within the council tax bands A – I, which is significantly different between the two Community Councils. The following table gives the figures for April 2024.

Distribution of dwellings between different council tax bands

	Llanbadarn Fawr		Faenor		Merged Council	
	Dwellings	Percentage	Dwellings	Percentage	Dwellings	Percentage
A	41	4.2%	9	0.8%	50	2.4%
B	125	12.8%	50	4.4%	175	8.3%
C	175	17.9%	97	8.6%	272	13.0%
D	236	24.2%	105	9.3%	341	16.2%
E	227	23.3%	547	48.7%	774	36.9%
F	102	10.5%	266	23.7%	368	17.5%
G	64	6.6%	47	4.2%	111	5.3%
H	4	0.4%	2	0.2%	6	0.3%
I	1	0.1%	1	0.1%	2	0.1%
Total	975	100.0%	1124	100.0%	2099	100.0%

Llanbadarn Fawr has relatively more dwellings in bands A – D, while Faenor has relatively more dwellings in bands E – F. This disparity between the two council areas is better demonstrated in the following bar chart.



Llanbadarn Fawr dwellings are shown in blue.
Faenor dwellings are shown in ochre (yellow/brown)

The relative scarcity of the lower tax bands in Faenor together with the large excess of band E & F dwellings is clearly demonstrated.

Conclusion on Proposed Council merger

For reasons of geography, history and the potential ongoing, inequitable financial cost to our residents, Faenor Community Council **rejects** the Boundary Commission proposal to merge Faenor Community Council with Llanbadarn Fawr Community Council.

Recommendation on the number of councillors

Faenor Community Council notes the desire of the Commission to reduce the numbers of Town & Community councillors in many areas. This council has not had 12 councillors for a number of years. We suggest a reduction from 12 councillors to 9, with a corresponding reduction in the meeting quorum from 4 to 3.

Ward	Electorate	Existing Councillors	Electors per Councillor	<i>Proposed Councillors</i>	<i>Electors per Councillor</i>
Faenor	475	4	119	3	158
Waunfawr	1,102	8	138	6	184
Total	1,577	12	131	9	175

Ceredigion 034 Part 2 – [REDACTED] (Clerk) – Faenor Community Council

Sir / Madam,

One important consideration regarding the recent Boundaries review is that should many of the suggested amalgamations take place then a number of Community Council Clerks will lose their jobs and the income that brings to their families. No suggestion has been made as to how they will be compensated for this loss of income and during this current financial crisis, this will mean real hardship to many - mainly in small rural communities, where this income is a valuable contributor to their survival. Serious consideration needs to be given to those clerks who even on short hours weekly (as in my case), will lose up to around £6,000 a year in income that will not be replaceable.

This is a very definite danger to many rural clerks

Please reconsider

[REDACTED] Clerk to Faenor Community Council, Ceredigion

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 035 – [REDACTED] – Llanddewi Brefi

The Chief Executive,

I am writing to strongly object to the proposed merger of the Community Council wards of Llanddewi-Brefi, Llangybi, and Llanfair-Clydogau.

It appears to be purely a numbers exercise, looking good on paper but not taking into account the actual reality of the changes for the individual communities involved. These changes will do nothing to benefit the rural communities, in fact the changes could do actual harm.

Currently we have a set of Community Councilors who are invested in, and very much part of the community. As the president of the Llanddewi-Brefi W.I. I have been able to work closely with the Community Council in providing a community cafe for the village. This provides a warm, friendly welcoming space available to all the village.

Being able to attend Community Council meetings in the village has been key to the development of the cafe along with other events and activities.

Merging the wards would mean that Community Council meetings would no longer be as accessible to the residents of Llanddewi-Brefi, having to be shared with Llangybi and Llanfair Clydogau. This proposal diminishes the say that residents have in their own community, and the ability of Councillors to support and develop each community, in order to thrive.

At a time when rural communities are being threatened by the continuing withdrawal of services this proposal is a further assault on the very fabric of rural life in Wales. This proposal takes no account of the identity, culture and history of each village area, and puts in jeopardy all the facilities that help to support the heart of each village.

Ceredigion County Council should be supporting the well-being and culture of all its population. This proposal does the opposite.

Yours Sincerely [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Llanddewi-Brefi, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I am writing to say that I agree totally with the proposed changes to the Llanrhystud Community Council.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

01 May 2024

Prif Weithredwr
Comisiwn Ffiniau a Democratiaeth Leol Cymru
LLawr Gwaelod, Ty Hastings
Llys Fizalan
Caerdydd

Dear Sir, Madam

I am deeply concerned about the proposed community, parish boundary changes for Llangeitho, Llanbadarn Odwyn and Penuwch (part of).

I fail to understand the reasoning or any benefits this would bring to the deeply rural communities; to the contrary, these communities would lose their unique identities and support.

Every community and its population in Wales have differing needs. These needs and support are best met at a very local level, by elected representatives from the community. These representatives know their community, individuals and their needs.

In these difficult, changing times there is much hardship, mental health issues and increasing numbers of vulnerable people in the communities. It is so important that the community councillors know and understand the needs of all in their community.

The criteria you have set is based on electorate not population. Does that mean that you don't believe our younger generations, below the voting age need or deserve the support of our community, the councillor, the work that they do and the time they contribute?

The transient population that choose to holiday or work here are a vital contribution to our local economy. Increasing massively the population of our communities.

During the Covid Pandemic it was vital to everyone's health and wellbeing to have very local support from their community councillors. To re-iterate, they know the people in their community.

I have lived in the community for most of my life. As a family we moved here in the mid 60s. Of course there have been many changes over the years, many not so good, serving only to erode away our unique communities.

The changes you have proposed will only add to this erosion.

To extend the boundary to include Llangwryfon and Lledrod would indeed be adding to this erosion and weakening our communities. Geographically this is a huge area, with every community having very differing needs.

I understand that a proposal to not extend the boundaries and remain as we are, has been rejected.

This is disappointing and worrying and clearly demonstrates that the wellbeing of our communities is not the driving force behind these changes.

If boundary changes are wholly necessary, they must at the very least be practical, benefit the communities moving forward, take account of geographical difficulties and climate concerns.

A more acceptable and logical extension to the boundary to overcome all the above would be;

(1) to extend the boundary to include LLanddewi Brefi.

These are also very rural communities with similar needs. These communities are historically, culturally and socially linked

It is served by one county councillor who also knows and understands the needs of both communities. Living on the periphery of both.

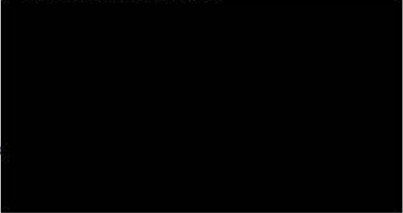
Community Councils aim to embrace the wider public, outside the AGM's. Of course they do not have a voice in ordinary monthly meetings, unless invited to speak on an issue.

Travelling by car to these meetings in this difficult and worrying climate of change must be kept at a minimum. Geographically Llanddewi Brefi would be the preferred choice to achieve this.

We must include individuals throughout the generations that are unable to access or use technology. They are marginalised a great deal with regard to many public services. Face to face is their only option. This should remain an option for all.

The health and wellbeing of Wales and its population is claimed to be important to our authorities. It is time to prove that everyone is important and no one is marginalised.

Yours sincerely



Ceredigion 038 – [REDACTED] - Llanddewi Brefi

I have lived in Llanddewi Brefi for 6 years and have been struck by the individual characters of all the communities around here.

My husband and I are involved in many community activities which I believe will be at risk if our village is linked with other areas and councils. The village hall is well used by, for example, the WI, the village football team, the community cafe, art club, youth club and Young Farmers. The local pub also hosts events like the village friendship club, darts dominoes etc which helps to keep people connected and build a community spirit across local members.

I think that the individual identity of the village will be lost if councillors have to cover a more diverse area and that they will be less accessible if there are fewer of them. We have already lost the village shop and one of the village pubs since we have been here and I worry that more services will be lost if finances and management become more diluted.

The village already has concerns with regard to wind turbines and electricity pylons threatening the landscape and the local wildlife, with most of the profit going abroad. I think our voluntary councillors can fight our village corner more affectively than fewer representatives over a larger area.

Therefore, I am not in favour of the changes to the boundaries that have been proposed.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Llanddewi Brefi

Tregaron [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Ceredigion 039 – [REDACTED] (Clerk) – Ysgubor-y-Coed Community Council

To whom it may concern

Please see attached a response by Cyngor Cymuned Ysgubor-y-Coed in response to the Local Democracy and Boundary commission draft proposals - Ceredigion Community review consultation.

Please note this response was written by the Chair of Cyngor Cymuned Ysgubor-y-Coed, on behalf of the council - x7 councillors.

Yn gywir

[REDACTED]

Clerc Cyngor Cymuned Ysgubor-y-Coed

Cyngor Cymuned Ysgubor-y-Coed Community Council

Ceredigion Community Review – Draft Proposals

The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales - Ceredigion Community Review – Draft Proposals aims to achieve “effective and convenient local government” whilst ensuring that “communities continue to reflect local identities” (pg 5).

The Commission considers that effective and convenient local government is served by community arrangements which are internally coherent, in the sense that communities have reasonable internal road links and mirror patterns of settlement and ease of communications. This is intended to ensure that **all** electors in the community can **engage** in the affairs and activities of all parts of it without having to travel through an adjoining community, for example.

We, Cyngor Cymuned Ysgubor-y-Coed, are writing in respect of the proposal to merge Ysgubor-y-Coed community council with Llangynfelyn and Ceulanamaesmawr. We would argue that this merger does **NOT** ensure effective and convenient local governance and does **NOT** reflect the different local identities of each community, which would become internally incoherent. Ysgubor-y-Coed has a very different demographic to the villages of Tre'r Ddol, Taliesin and Talybont and our residents will no doubt suffer from under representation by being 'lumped in' with these other far more dominant and contrasting villages.

Local Identity

Ceulanamaesmawr, focusses on Talybont, a large village with a shop, petrol station, pharmacy, school, and a vibrant community hall. Llangynfelyn has 2 smaller villages with a prosperous community owned café and shop, guardianship of land at Cors Fochno, and a small but well supported community hall. Ysgubor-y-Coed is 5 miles, by public highway, away from Talybont and is a very rural community, with a clear identity of its own. It contains the three villages of Glandyfi, Eglwys-fach, and Furnace spread for several miles along the A487 Trunk Road. There are clusters and isolated dwellings within the four valleys: the Llyfnant up to Glaspwll, Cwm Einion, the road to Bwlch Einion, and the road to Dynyn. On the Dyfi estuary side of the A487, there are a number of family farms, the RSPB Reserve of Ynys Hir, and the renowned Ynys Hir Hall Hotel boasting their Michelin star restaurant and rooms.

Even though Ysgubor-y-Coed currently has only 240 electors, who form 124 individual households spread over a very wide area – 4237 hectare [1]. The community has cohesion through the many groups that use the community hall – The Iron Room (Yr Ystafell Haearn) such as pilates, yoga, quiz nights, a practice room for the Georgian Choir, and a well-attended community run weekly Warm Space initiated by the Community Councillors, just to mention a few. The Community Council hold all its meetings at The Iron Room. St Michael's Church – located within walking distance of The Iron Room, is another central hub of the community and is where the biennial R.S. Thomas Literary Festival is held.

Ysgubor-y-Coed is a very tight knit community with a strong sense of place and identity. It is well represented by its current x7 Community Councillors. The community council is highly regarded by community electors and has never had a problem attracting councillors. The current councillors span a range of age, occupation, and represent the whole community well. The community council has been pivotal in driving many issues for the community and, we feel, this

drive would be lost if the merger of the 3 communities was to go ahead, as the sense of place and identity would be lost.

One of the many issues addressed by Ysgubor-y-Coed community and council has been the issue of safety on the A487 in its villages. Led by the Community Councillors, the lack of pavements between the villages has been brought to the attention of both the County Council and the North and Mid Wales Trunk Roads Agency over many years. Traffic speed on the A487 through the villages is another major problem and again, led by the Community Councillors, the community have recently held protests to lower the speed limit, currently 40mph, through the villages of Furnace and Eglwys-fach. These protests were attended by over 100 people, including our local County Councillor and Senedd Member. The community has appeared many times, and again recently, in the local and national press around this issue. The community has also got together to generate a community film about the issue, and this evidence is currently being considered by the Petitions Committee of the Senedd.

The passion showed by Ysgubor-y-Coed Community Councillors towards this, and other local issues, would be lost if a **sole representative** would be campaigning for Ysgubor-y-Coed on a much larger area Community Council.

The Community Council is responsible, on a day-to-day basis, for :

1. Consults on planning applications.
2. Initiates special events e.g a community barbecue, coronation celebration, fundraising events, well-being workshops, etc.
3. Provides and maintains the Community Council website, which is a crucial source of local information in such a rural area.
4. Provides and maintains public information notice boards.
5. Provides and maintains Public Access Defibrillators.
6. Financially supports the community hall.
7. Financially supports St Michael's Church with the up-keep of the community graveyard.
8. Ensures that all street lighting within the villages is working properly.
9. Maintains verges on various parish lanes.
10. Monitors bus-stop condition and maintenance – reporting to Ceredigion County Council if necessary.
11. Monitors and reports problems to both the NMWTRA and Ceredigion County Council on the many roads within the ward (approx 30 miles of Trunk and B roads - not including smaller roads which can be even more difficult to supervise).
12. Monitors and reports on problems with the CADW car park including bringing pressure to bear in clearing rubbish and fly tipping from the Dyfi Ffwrnais car park.
13. Currently collaborating with CADW to improve the Dyfi Ffwrnais car park surface.
14. Supervises, on behalf of CADW, the water wheel at Dyfi Ffwrnais – a "Perfectly-preserved example of Welsh industrial heritage in a sublime rural setting".
15. Monitors and reports on problems with the Dyfi Junction BR station and actively lobbies British Rail over improving the access to Dyfi Junction station.
16. Monitors and maintains local public benches.
17. Collaborates with the RSPB at the Ynys Hir Reserve - an area of 800 hectares containing some really important sites for wildlife including Wales' only wintering population of Greenland White-fronted Geese.
18. Applies for grants on behalf of the community, including a recent one for restoring the old phone box which houses one of the community defibrillators.
19. It supports local enterprises and events with small grants drawn from a very small precept.

And much more.

This level of care and attention to detail displayed by the current x7 community councillors, on all of the above, would be lost if only **one representative** would be campaigning for Ysgubor-y-Coed on a much larger area Community Council.

Size of Councils

The Commission suggests that a Community Council should have no fewer than 400 electors, However, it adds that consideration will be given to the creation of Community Wards of less than 400 electors based on natural boundaries and the coherence of communities. The rural community of Ysgubor-y-Coed spans a very large area – 4237 hectare [1], with sparse population and **should be seen as an exception to this policy**. The Commission notes that the size policy is not prescriptive and acts as a guide only (pg 6).

The review and the proposals outline a certain number of councillors to represent each of the present day wards - i.e. Ceulanamaesmawr (4), Llangynfelyn (2) and Ysgubor-y-Coed (1) but does not explain how this will be enabled or enforced. There is no indication as to if there would be separate elections in each of the present day wards, thus allowing the electorate of Ysgubor-y-Coed to only vote for their 1 councillor, the electorate of Llangynfelyn only voting for their 2 councillors, and so on, or is there another method yet to be revealed?

If 70% (average electorate turnout) of the proposed 1560 elector number engage in future elections, and 90% or above of the 70% were from the current Ceulanamaesmawr or Llangynfelyn communities, then potentially either of those communities could secure the x1 allocated councillor from Ysgubor-y-Coed, thus leaving Ysgubor-y-Coed totally unrepresented.

Effective, Convenient Local Government

We firmly believe that the rural cohesion currently displayed within Ysgubor-y-Coed will effectively be destroyed if the proposed merger goes ahead. It will also undermine the Commission's general duty which is to "seek to ensure effective and convenient local government". The proposal that a rural Ysgubor-y-Coed should have a **single councillor** with two from Llangynfelyn and four from Ceulanamaesmawr, would mean it will be extremely difficult to ensure that our rural problems would receive the proper consideration.

This proposed larger area and lower member community council will have a greater number of assets to manage, more competitive pressures on limited resources, and a wider range of challenges and opportunities to consider, eg. planning applications from residents in our remote areas will be difficult for Ceulanamaesmawr and Llangynfelyn councillors to reference and make comments on. This will inevitably have an impact on Councillors' time and ability to fully engage and participate with matters where the agenda of the proposed community council becomes even more extensive, whilst reaching consensus will become much more difficult.

Being the sole member for the whole Ysgubor-y-Coed ward – 4237 hectare [1] while the total area of the current Ceulanamaesmawr ward is 6225 hectare [1], will have an impact on this x1 Councillor's ability to fully report and monitor any problems - they will simply not have enough time to be able to fully represent the ward.

The proposed ward merger will also put greater pressures on limited resources as each councillor vies for their community – how will x1 representative from Ysgubor-y-Coed make their voice heard above the x6 others?

Indeed, how will the x1 community councillor from Ysgubor-y-Coed ever achieve a majority position on any matter?

Finally, we fear that Ysgubor-y-Coed would see a loss of financial resources following proposed amalgamation with Llangynfelyn and Ceulanamesmawr community councils and we also believe that the proposed amalgamation would lead to an unfair dominance in the numbers of Ceulanamesmawr community councillors on any new council.

We therefore ask the Commission to recognise the uniqueness of Ysgubor-y-Coed ward and not to proceed with the proposed merger that would have a very detrimental effect on this unique community.

We ask again, as the rural community of Ysgubor-y-Coed spans a very large area – 4237 hectare [1], with sparse population which has natural boundaries and a coherence of communities, that it **should be seen as an exception to the policy of having fewer than 400 electors. The Commission notes that the size policy is not prescriptive and acts as a guide only (pg 6).**

Yours sincerely

Dr Barry Thomas (Chair)
On behalf of Cyngor Cymuned Ysgubor-y-Coed

Post Script :

Commission : "When developing our proposals, we have considered local connections and looked very carefully at every representation presented to us".

During the first consultation period in May 2023, the Chair of Ysgubor-y-Coed sent a letter on behalf of the Council and residents - in **THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION REPORT** this is noted as being only one response form Ysgubor-y-Coed thus downgrading it - we see this as being an extremely unfair representation of that letter.

[1] UK Census 2021



8.05.2024

RE: Consultation – Boundary Commission's Proposal to abolish the communities of Ysbyty Ystwyth, Ystrad Fflur and Ystrad Meurig and to merge the 3 areas to form a new warded community of Ystrad Fflur

Response from:

Ystrad Fflur Community Council

Members of Ystrad Fflur Community Council express their strong opposition to the Boundary Commission's Proposal to abolish the communities of Ysbyty Ystwyth, Ystrad Fflur and Ystrad Meurig to form a new warded community of Ystrad Fflur.

Should this Proposal come to pass, it will mean:

1. Ysbyty Ystwyth - reduction in number of Community Cllrs from 8 to 2
2. Ystrad Fflur - reduction in number of Community Cllrs from 10 to 3
3. Ystrad Meurig- reduction in number of Community Cllrs from 8 to 2

A decrease from the 26 present Community Cllrs to 7, with a wide geographical area to represent can only dilute the voice of local people and democracy.

The current community council arrangements in Ystrad Fflur consist of the ward of Caron Uwch Clawdd and Gwnnws Uchaf and has a total of 606 electorate. It has functioned as one "Ward" for many years. Seats have been filled almost immediately and the Community Council has operated in its full capacity of 10 Cllrs for decades.

Pontrhydfendigaid is a historic village seeped in Welsh culture and Medieval history associated with the 12th Century Cistercian Abbey of Strata Florida close to the headwaters of the River Teifi. Ystrad Fflur Community Council endeavours to work with the Abbey Committee to promote the economic, social and cultural

life of the area and at the same time to celebrate Strata Florida's unique landscape and history.

Clerc: Clerk Cyngor Cymuned Ystrad Fflur Community Council,
Maesllan, Llanbedr PS, Lampeter, Ceredigion,

[www](#)

We believe that Ystrad Fflur Community Council can stand-alone as a Community Council delivering real benefits to the electorate of Pontrhydfendigaid and Ffair Rhos. The Village of Bontrhydfendigaid has a successful Primary School and Ysgol Feithrin, a Village Shop, three Village Pubs and holds events such as the Eisteddfod Rhys Thomas James Pantyfedwen, which attracts people from Ceredigion and beyond and regular events at the Pavilion.

Having 10 elected members with diverse skills enables the Community Council to provide a range of services for the electorate. This helps to build community cohesion and combat isolation within a socially deprived area with limited or non-existent public services e.g. public transport.

Ystrad Fflur Community Council is actively involved with the following matters.

1. Maintains the Pantyfedwen Play Area to include all play-equipment. Arranges Inspections.
2. Responsible for grass-cutting within many areas of the Village. Could increase as Ceredigion County Council has made cut backs.
3. Trim/cut trees, hedges on a regular basis.
4. Arrange litter collections at certain intervals of the year.
5. Maintains the War Memorial.
6. Takes responsibility for the Remembrance Sunday Service in November, which attracts over 100 attendees.
7. Arranges Community Events eg Jubilee Party.
8. Sources grants where necessary eg for new bus-shelters and play equipment.
9. Involved in off-shoot committees eg Christmas Tree Committee – arrange the Village's Christmas Tree to include Santa delivering presents to the children of the Village.

Other Committees where representatives of the Community Council are involved- Pantyfedwen Hall Committee, School Governors (awards a Scholarship annually); Churchyard Trust.

A reduction of 70% of the current representation within Ystrad Fflur Community Council will imply that areas of interest/expertise/ workforce/local knowledge will be lost.

It would appear impossible for 3 Community Cllrs to adequately represent the community in its current capacity.

Furthermore, representatives of one Community Council will not possess in-depth knowledge of matters appertaining to another Community Council, which will adversely affect decision making and effective working practices. Meetings will be longer and matters appertaining to one present Community Council could appear irrelevant to the other 2 Community Councils.

Each present Community Council has its own characteristics and identity. Historically these three communities have not worked together, due to long standing social and demographic differences and cannot be envisaged in the future.

Clerc: Clerk Cyngor Cymuned Ystrad Fflur Community Council, [REDACTED]
Maesllan, Llanbedr PS, Lampeter, Ceredigion, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

As mentioned, recruiting new Community Cllrs has not been challenging in the past but it is likely that the situation will change in the future should this Proposal be realised; undertaking the role of a Community Cllr on a voluntary basis will not deem an attractive proposition especially with the extra workload. Most of the present members have voiced that they will not stand at the next election under these proposed guidelines. Many of these are dedicated Cllrs with years of experience and local knowledge. Fiscal savings are difficult to envisage.

Re the Precept, the money raised by the Community Council via Ceredigion County Council, will it be administered in a fair and transparent manner, under the new arrangement?

Concern is also expressed re the Welsh Language. The Welsh Language Commissioner aims to achieve 1million Welsh Speakers in Wales by 2050. Presently, the Community Council is able to conduct its meetings solely through the medium of Welsh. (minutes available in English and simultaneous translation offered where necessary)

The Welsh Language, possibly, could not be represented at all under the Proposal and, if so, yet another blow to the language and culture.

We believe that the Initial Consultation re this matter had been insufficient and not publicised adequately. Engagement with County and Community Councils was limited.

We also understand that the amalgamation of Community Wards within Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire County Councils is executed on a voluntary basis. Where is the parity when arrangements within Ceredigion County Council dictate otherwise?

This Proposal is a retrograde step in local democracy with huge social, political, and cultural ramifications and a bid to dismantle communities by stealth. Grassroots elected members of Ystrad Fflur Community Council find it difficult to establish the rationale behind such a Proposal and are extremely disappointed.

Yours sincerely



Clerk

Ceredigion 041 – [REDACTED] – Llanddewi Brefi

Good morning,

As a long-standing resident of Llanddewi Brefi, I was surprised to see the proposed changes to boundaries and Parish Council arrangements.

I agree with the general view that there is little to be gained by making major boundary changes in Llanddewi Brefi.

I believe that local councils work best when they are village-based, which is the current arrangement, even though the number of electors looks small on paper.

Our local councillors are a valuable resource to the community. Some have given their time for years, often showing up for meetings after a hard day's work. They know their own patch, and are accountable. It may not be the best use of their time and skills, to sit through parts of meetings that concern other communities. And reducing their numbers would put more strain on those who stay, limiting their contribution.

There are many hard financial decisions to be taken in Ceredigion now. The support given by community councillors is more valuable than ever, to keep things going. It is important to listen to them, and to retain their skills whenever possible.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern

I am concerned about the proposed changes which would lead to the amalgamation of the Community Councils of Llangynfelyn, Ysgubor-y-Coed and Ceulanamaesmawr for the following reasons:

1. The reduction in the number of councillors will place a huge workload on the proposed 7 members of the new council. For example, the 2 proposed for Llangynfelyn (rather than the current 10) would each have to represent 249 electors. Councillors give up their own time to represent their community and to expect 2 people to take on the work that 10 have been doing is unreasonable.
2. the balance of the proposed council heavily favours just one of the existing councils. if Ceulanamaesmawr have 4 councillors, they would be able to out vote any proposals from the other 2 areas, disadvantaging the smaller parts of the council.
3. The areas proposed are not equal in size or population. Guidelines state no council should have fewer than 400 electors. Llangynfelyn has 498, and should perhaps just be merged with Ysgubor-y-Coed, giving these smaller areas the chance to represent their specific areas efficiently.
4. Rural communities often have to fight harder for recognition of the issues that concern them. Sometimes it is beyond the control of local representatives because of policies from a far more populated areas, but if rural areas are not to be more marginalised then local people willing to represent the communities in which they live should be able to continue to do so in numbers that make the work feasible and rewarding.

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 043 – [REDACTED] -Tre'r Ddol

Dear Ceredigion Council,

Re: The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission Report

As a resident of Tre'r Ddol in Llangynfelyn ward, I strongly urge you to reconsider merging Llangynfelyn Community Council with Ceulanamaesmawr and Ysgubor-y-Coed councils. In the proposed merged community council, Llangynfelyn would only have two councillors representing it instead of 9 and, as a smaller ward, our interests would be greatly disadvantaged by being merged with the much larger ward of Ceulanamaesmawr (proposal is 4 councillors). Even if the two councillors for Llangynfelyn combined with the one councillor from Ysgubor-y-Coed, they would still not have a majority on any issue.

I believe that Llangynfelyn residents will suffer from under-representation if this merger goes ahead, which will negatively effect our community. As a rural area, our residents' sole social life is based in Tre'r Ddol and Taliesin, and without the current level of support that our Community Council is able to provide, our social life will be greatly depleted, which will impact mental health, particularly of older and more vulnerable residents. One particular example of this is that the community cafe and shop delivers to an elderly, vulnerable person with a disabled adult son, neither of whom can travel and also arranged volunteer drivers and deliveries to shielding residents during the Covid lockdown.

Llangynfelyn is a very active community, with: a community garden group; Llanfach hall which has many events such as church services, community art, toddler, yoga and local history groups; not to mention the community shop and cafe, which also has a vibrant and varied calendar of events, including a Welsh learner conversation group, welsh and English bookshelves, and a knit and natter group. Many of these groups are funded by the community council, and many events are dependent on community council input.

Also, with the closure and absence of our local primary school, these community groups have the very important social function of keeping the community connected, with a social heart.

Llangynfelyn ward has 498 electors, which is greater than the 400 stated in the guidelines as a minimum. I therefore strongly urge that the amalgamation of the community councils does not go ahead.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 044 – Cllr Nia Richards - Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council

8 May 2024

To the Boundary and Local Democracy Commission for Wales

I am responding to the Ceredigion Community Review - Draft Proposals. I do so as a long-standing councillor and taxpayer in the Community of Ceulanamaesmawr, which would merge with two neighbouring councils under the proposals where the total number of councillors would be cut from 27 to 7.

I am sure that the councils and other individuals in the affected ward will list the range of services and projects we are involved in but I would like to emphasise the impact on me as a current councillor.

The proposals here are utterly disappointing to say the least. In my view, they show a serious lack of understanding and appreciation of the council's role in the community and a complete disregard for the devastating impact they would have.

We are assured that these proposals are not a cost-cutting exercise, but I fear that there will be a high price to pay, in more ways than one. At a time when the cost-of-living crisis is putting pressure on individuals, groups and communities – any proposals should be looking at how to boost community councils and provide further support to councillors who give generously of their time and not make huge and demoralising cuts.

In fact, I think the proposals will be completely counterproductive and result in many more empty seats. Who would want to be part of a community council that is spread far too thin to do justice to a community that means so much to them? Is it fair for me, as someone who currently lives "two community councils away", to comment on planning applications in areas miles away of which I have little knowledge or a real appreciation of their needs in discussions about spending the precept?

With so many fewer resources on one hand and an increase in statutory entanglements on the other (the Environment Wales Act 2016 for example), councils will have to prioritise and cut back on the services they offer and try to justify decisions to residents.

- Who will tell Talybont children that revamping the village playground will take an extra 3 years as there are fewer councillors to raise money and manage the project?
- Who will tell attendees of the village's *Cwtsh Cynnes* that their weekly coffee morning (described as "my lifeline" by one elderly gentleman) will now meet monthly as there is no longer anyone to run it?

- Who will explain to the family why the battery in the defibrillator was not changed?

Community Councils are much more than the sum of their parts and in a world where it is becoming increasingly impossible to connect with companies and officials - local councillors are literally at the heart of the community and want to help and make a difference.

There may well be issues that need to be addressed in some areas, but Ceulanamaesmawr is definitely not one of them. This general approach will be at the expense of where things aren't broken, they don't need fixing.

Yours sincerely

Nia Richards

Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council

Ceredigion 045 – Cllr Nest Jenkins – Ceulanamaesmawr Ward

I am a local councillor for Ceulanamaesmawr serving the villages of Talybont and Bontgoch and surrounding areas in north Ceredigion.

Amalgamating the three local councils with only 7 councillors and 1 clerk raises many problems. Firstly it will be far too much work for only 7 councillors, many of whom have other responsibilities like the show committee, the village hall committee, young farmers club, youth club and also many are in full employment. Planning applications will not be considered fairly as a councillor from Bontgoch will lack knowledge of Glaspwll area and vice versa.

As one of 11 councillors for Ceulanamaesmawr we regularly deal with the following.

- a) planning applications
- b) supporting local events physically and financially
- c) overseeing 2 play areas, one in Talybont one in Bontgoch
- d) hedge and grass cutting
- e) responsibility for local cemetery and Tabernacl and Nazareth cemeteries
- f) creating a local website
- g) responsibility for 6 defibrillators
- i) street lighting and road conditions
- j) monitoring and maintaining the many benches in our community
- k) responsibility for public toilets in Talybont

I foresee that 7 councillors will be unable to give the attention to these items and more which our community deserve and indeed expect.

Apart from the above list our community has raised almost 13 thousand pounds in order to upgrade the play area in Talybont. This was as a result of many local events where children, parents and the local community had an input into what they wanted in a new play area.

Creating one community council means looking after the population within 50 square miles, but with only 7 councillors and one clerk it is physically impossible and it will dramatically increase the financial demand on the county. Councillors in Ceulanamaesmawr volunteer to carry out many jobs on a voluntary basis and don't expect payment for work which benefits their community.

We are very fortunate to have several young councillors who are full of ideas and participate with enthusiasm. We meet once a month and more often than not have 100% attendance.

What is the true purpose of amalgamating three communities?

I look forward to your reply.

Nest Jenkins

Ceredigion 046 – [REDACTED] (Clerk) – Llangeitho Community Council

I am enclosing several documents (also sent by post) stating our concern and response to the ward boundary change recommendations in Llangeitho, County of Ceredigion.

Also following a public meeting held in Llangeitho and strong feelings within the community, I have attached 71 village residents' responses to the ward boundary change recommendations (posted separately).

Llangeitho Community Council is confident that we have met with the Boundary Commission criteria. We encourage members of the Boundary Commission to meet with us to discuss all aspects of the submission and our recommendations, and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Clerc/Clerk

Cyngor Cymuned Llangeitho Community Council

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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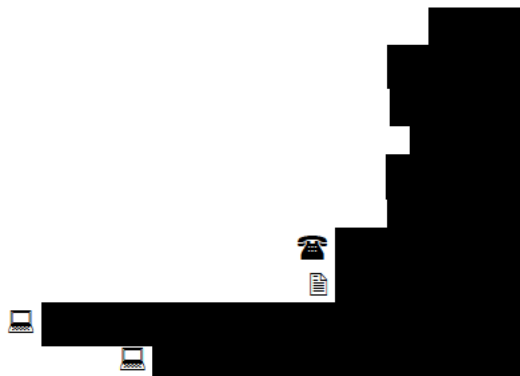
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

LLANGEITHO COMMUNITY COUNCIL



8 May 2024

Chief Executive
Boundary and Local Democracy Commission for Wales
Ground Floor
Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
CARDIFF
CF24 0BL
ymholiadau@ffiniau.cymru

Dear Sir/Madam,

We write to you as Llangeitho Community Council to state our response to the ward boundary change recommendations.

We have already sent a response to the consultation. This response included a description and map of Llangeitho Ward. Unfortunately, it appears that no attention was paid to this response, and that our Community Council's recommendations were not considered, despite our knowledge of the ward.

There is a sense amongst our Community Council that there is a lack of transparency in how the need for boundary changes has been presented. What exactly is the objective of the process?

We would therefore like to respond a second time to the consultation: -

1. We present the original Appendix again as it is the version unanimously preferred by the residents of our area, extending the boundary to include the whole Penuwch area. The Community Council commits to ensuring that the cohesiveness of the Llangeitho Community Council area is maintained, but there is a logical potential to extend the existing boundary to include the village and area of Penuwch as a whole. The boundaries reflect how the villages and dwellings have evolved over the years.

The Community Council will continue to maintain the historic character of the area, which is a **fundamental principle** of the guidelines for proposed boundary changes.

2. We do not regard the option proposed in the Boundary Commission report as sensible and actionable. This option is intended to amalgamate the wards of Llangeitho, Lledrod and Llangwryfon, and this option was unanimously rejected by the Community Council and residents of the area for the following reasons: -
 - The merger of the three communities will jeopardise the unique identity of the three wards.
 - The three communities mentioned to be merged into the new 'Llangeitho' Ward are very different from each other – all three are 'very rural' wards, with only very narrow roads in some places to reach them, which makes the travel between them slower than the Commissioners may realise.
 - There will be 3/4-hour travel time between one end of the ward to the other, which does not comply with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
 - The local service centre for the two communities of Llangwryfon and Lledrod in Aberystwyth is different from Llangeitho where the local service centre is in Tregaron.
 - Two wards will lose status, Llanbadarn Odwyn and Penuwch.
 - The proposed new Ward would be split between 3 County Councillors, who will also be responsible for other wards. Despite their best efforts, we assume that they will not be able to share and give decent attention to all the areas and Wards in their care.
 - Due to the cost of travelling so far between the communities within the ordinance proposed here, we assume that the time and costs of the Councillors will increase. Councillors of their desire to serve their community voluntarily have so far been happy not to claim the £150 annual charge. Costs to taxpayers will inevitably increase as Councillors have to claim the full annual charge of £150
 - The Clerk's costs and working hours will increase
 - We anticipate that there will be a problem for the public with the older people coming to join meetings
 - Joining via a Zoom link can be a problem, as the web network is very weak in these communities.
 - We anticipate troubles about the dispensation of the precept. It will be very difficult to be fair, and we anticipate major problems with how to prioritise the projects in the different communities.
3. Due to our recognition of our local area, a third option, which is to merge the existing Llanddewi Brefi Ward with Llangeitho Ward, can be considered for the following reasons: -
 - More effective and convenient -
 - One County Councillor rather than a Ward split between 3 County Councillors with responsibility for other areas and wards as well.
 - Two community wards that are more like each other.
 - Councillors not taking annual pay as it is convenient from a meeting distance perspective.
 - Clerk's travel costs reasonable.
 - Two clerks present between Llanddewi Brefi and Llangeitho not three as in the recommendation of joining Lledrod, Llangeitho and Llangwryfon?

- Three miles distance between the central villages of Llangeitho Ward and Llanddewi Brefi Ward
- Distance of meetings between Llangeitho and Llanddewi Brefi acceptable for public attendance.
- Five minutes travel time between the main village centres of the two Wards.
- Both wards' Local Service Centre in Tregaron.
- Henry Richard School in Tregaron is the high school for most children of Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Llangeitho and children of the Llanddewi Brefi area.
- Electorate close to boundary commission report requirements.
- There have been joint meetings between Llangeitho and Llanddewi Brefi to discuss the possibility of combining Wards
- Reduced environmental pollution during meetings in the two main villages.
- The support of the same County Councillor will continue over the two existing Wards and maintain consistency.

We attach a map for information to accompany the above recommendation. It shows the importance of retaining the three wards, Gwynfil, Penuwch and Llanbadarn Odwyn, as there are three different villages that need to have representation on the new Community Council and retain their local identity. The inclusion of Penuwch village would bring the electorate number close to the 400, required, in Penuwch ward.

We have a concern about the use of the Welsh language. The Language Commissioner aims to achieve one million Welsh speakers in Wales by 2050. We are currently able to run our meetings through the medium of the Welsh language (English records available).

We understand that merging wards within Pembrokeshire is a voluntary process. Where is the consistency and fairness between the two Counties and their residents?

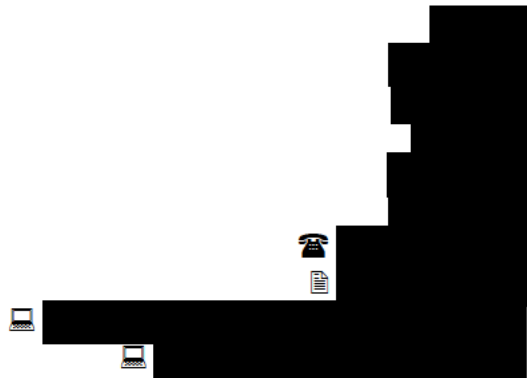
Llangeitho Community Council is confident that we have met with the Boundary Commission criteria. We encourage members of the Boundary Commission to meet with us to discuss all aspects of the submission and our recommendations, and look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours faithfully,



Clerk of Llangeitho Community Council

LLANGEITHO COMMUNITY COUNCIL



8 Mai 2024

Chief Executive
Boundary and Local Democracy Commission for Wales
Ground Floor
Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
CARDIFF
CF24 0BL
ymholiadau@ffiniau.cymru

Dear Sir/Madam,

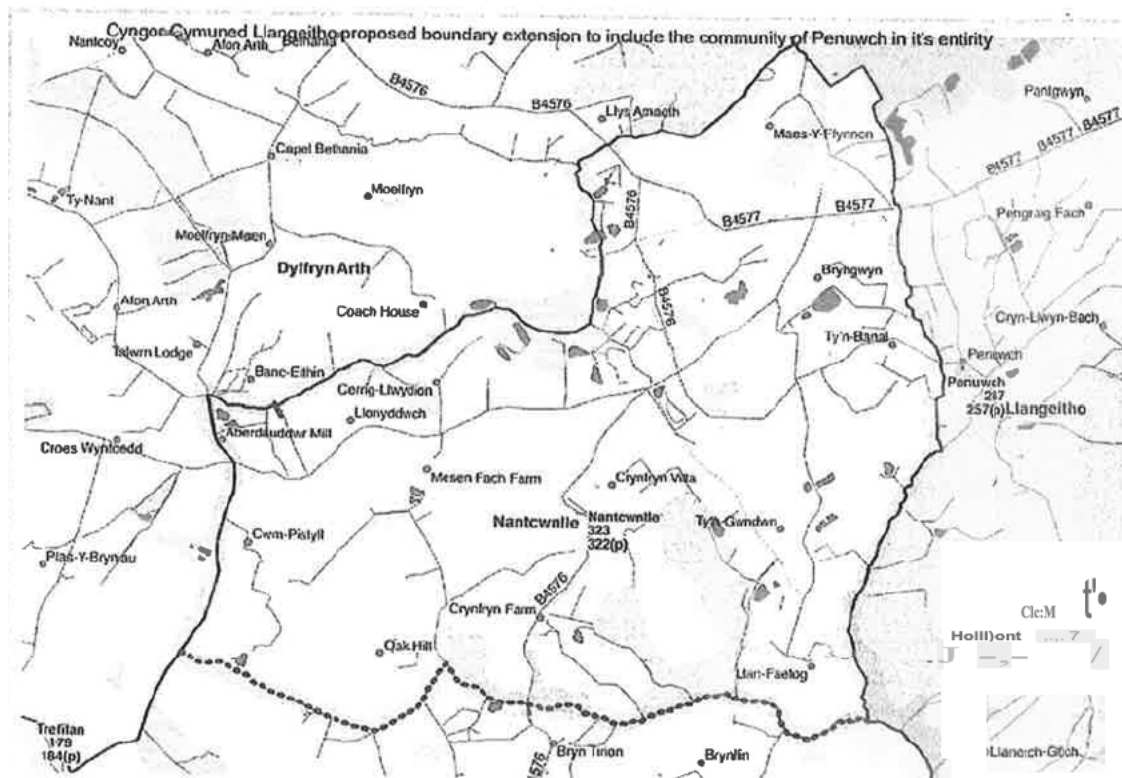
Following a public meeting held in Llangeitho and strong feelings within the community, I am enclosing (71) the responses of the village's residents.

With the Boundary Commission and Local Democracy Wales not agreeing with recommendations set out in all the attached letters, would you be so kind as to inform us whether there is a process to appeal the decisions.

Note that a large number of the attached letters ask questions, are responses going to be given to all the questions in the letters?

Yours faithfully.


Clerk of Llangeitho Community Council

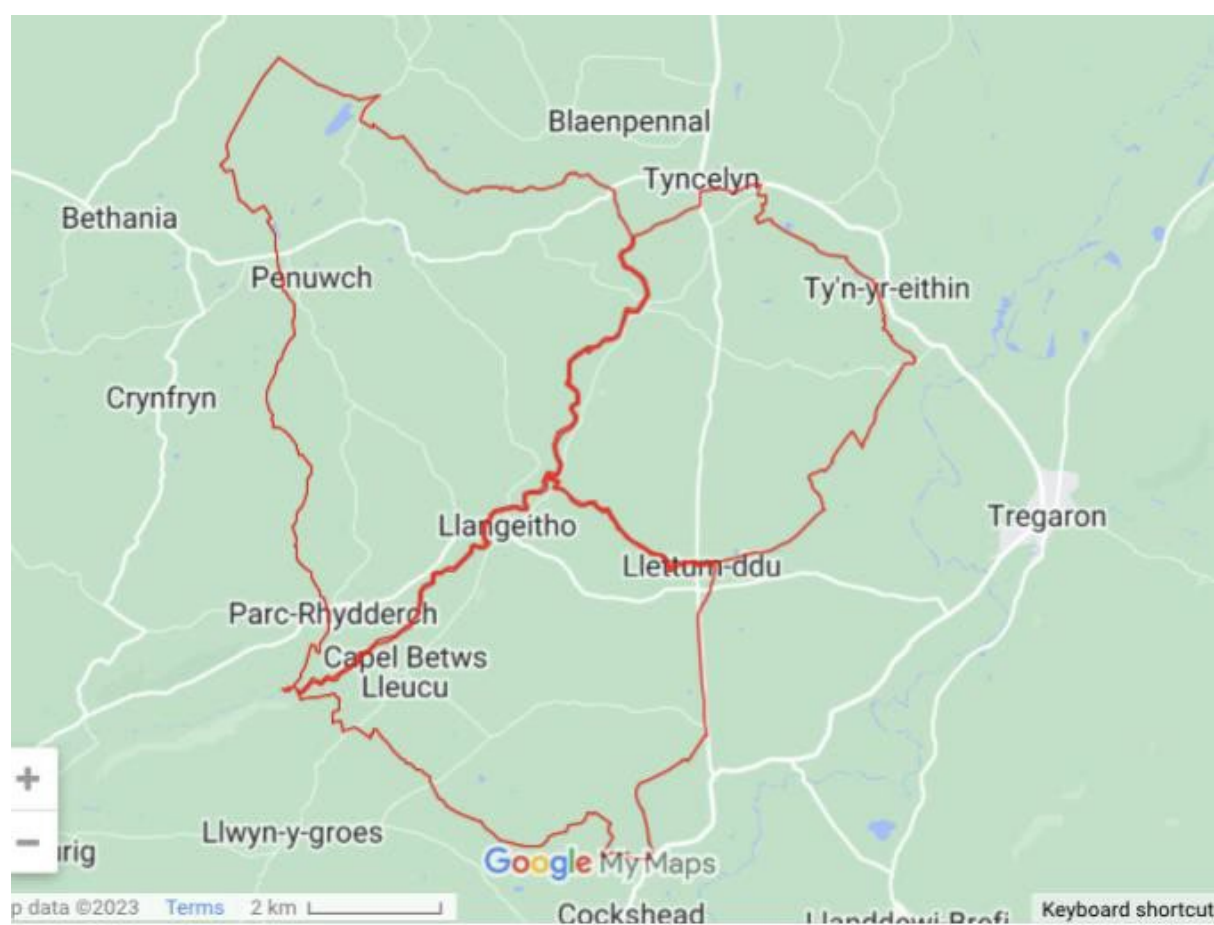




Map illustrating Cyngor Cymuned Llangeitho proposed new boundary



Llangeitho Community Council's response to Ceredigion Community Boundaries Review



Background

Llangeitho Community Council covers 3829 hectares and covers part of the Aeron Valley extending to Llyn Fanod on the Mynydd Bach, and includes the villages of Llangeitho, Capel Betws Lleucu, Llwynpiod and part of Penuwch.

The Community Council represents the historic parishes of Gwynfil, Llanbadarn Odwyn and Penuwch. The boundaries date back to the sixth century and are based on topographical features including local rivers and streams and the Sarn Helen Road which are of historical importance.

The 2021 Census showed a population of 741. It should be noted that the Community Council questions the Ceredigion Community Review 2023 figures which predict a decline in our population over the next five years. The Council is aware that several planning applications have been granted and others are awaiting a decision. These developments will have a positive impact on our population numbers.

The area is served by the school, shop, café, petrol station, pub, chapels and churches.



Llangeitho Community Council

- Llangeitho Community Council consists of 12 Councillors and employs a part-time Clerk as an Appropriate Officer and Responsible Financial Officer.
- Councillors do not receive pay or claim expenses for their work.
- The Council's precept remains low compared to neighbouring councils and Councillors are aware of the need to deliver value for money for the taxpayers.

Assets

The Community Council has a wide range of assets.

Community Park. Within the park there is a range of children's play equipment, and the Council is responsible for regular safety checks and maintenance of all equipment to ROSPA standard. The resource is used daily by children attending Rhos Helyg Community School (Llangeitho Campus) and the Cylch Meithrin. There is also a seating area which is used as a meeting and social space by the residents.

- **Llyn Fanod.** Llyn Fanod is a 4.5-hectare upland lake in the northernmost part of the Community Council and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Llyn Fanod is the origin of the river Aeron and tributaries which partly create the boundaries of the Community Council. The Community Council is currently exploring the historic rights of Llyn Fanod and the possibility that the Council are the owners of the lake. Llyn Fanod offers unique wildlife and recreational opportunities and the potential to be a major recreational resource.
- **The historic sacred yew tree.** The Community Council has exclusive responsibility for the yew tree and the site, and we are advised that it dates back to the 17th century. The area around the yew tree is a historic hub for the community and has been a meeting place for residents for many years.



- **The war memorial.** The Community Council recently secured grant funding of £4,313 to renovate and preserve this important memorial which remembers those lost in the two world wars. They will be remembered during our annual service on Remembrance Sunday.
- **Bus shelters.** The Community Council maintains some of the bus shelters in the area. Following consultation with residents, one has been transformed into a community hub and houses a library of books, DVDs and CDs. The library was a valuable resource during the Covid pandemic.

Duties and Responsibilities

- The Community Council lobbies vigorously to maintain local transport infrastructure. Reflecting the topography of the area, it is essential to travel in and out of the area throughout the year. The Community Council has also been way ahead of the Local Authority's constant lobbying to ensure that the routes that need to be gritted are maintained across the community in bad weather.
- The Community Council continues to lobby the Local Authority on road safety.
- The Community Council operates between the residents and Dyfed Powys Police in its efforts to ensure a safe home and work environment for residents.
- The Community Council has been a strong advocate for the preservation of local postal and bus services, lobbying robustly through political and other channels.
- The Community Council are key stakeholders in the management of several community groups and organisations including Llangeitho Village Hall Committee, Llangeitho Agricultural Show, Young Farmers Club, chapels and local churches, providing support and funding where appropriate. It supports and is actively involved in organising local events.



- The Community Council supports a range of leisure activities in the community in line with its responsibilities under the Welsh Government's Well-being of Future Generations Act. This is partly reflected through our support for leisure activities in the area and we recognise and promote our many rights of way.
- The Community Council supports local projects that improve the environment by, for example, supporting the installation of flower displays throughout the community. It is also responsible for the maintenance of the green areas of the area.
- The Community Council is responsible for the maintenance of the area's information boards and public announcements.
- The Community Council is responsible for providing street lighting.
- The Community Council promotes the role of local businesses and recognises their value to the community and its residents.
- The Community Council supports the maintenance of five cemeteries within its boundaries.



- The Community Council provides financial support for the maintenance of the three defibrillators within its boundaries. Reflecting on our role in supporting community health provision, we are exploring the possibility of re-purposing a disused phone kiosk to an additional defibrillator.

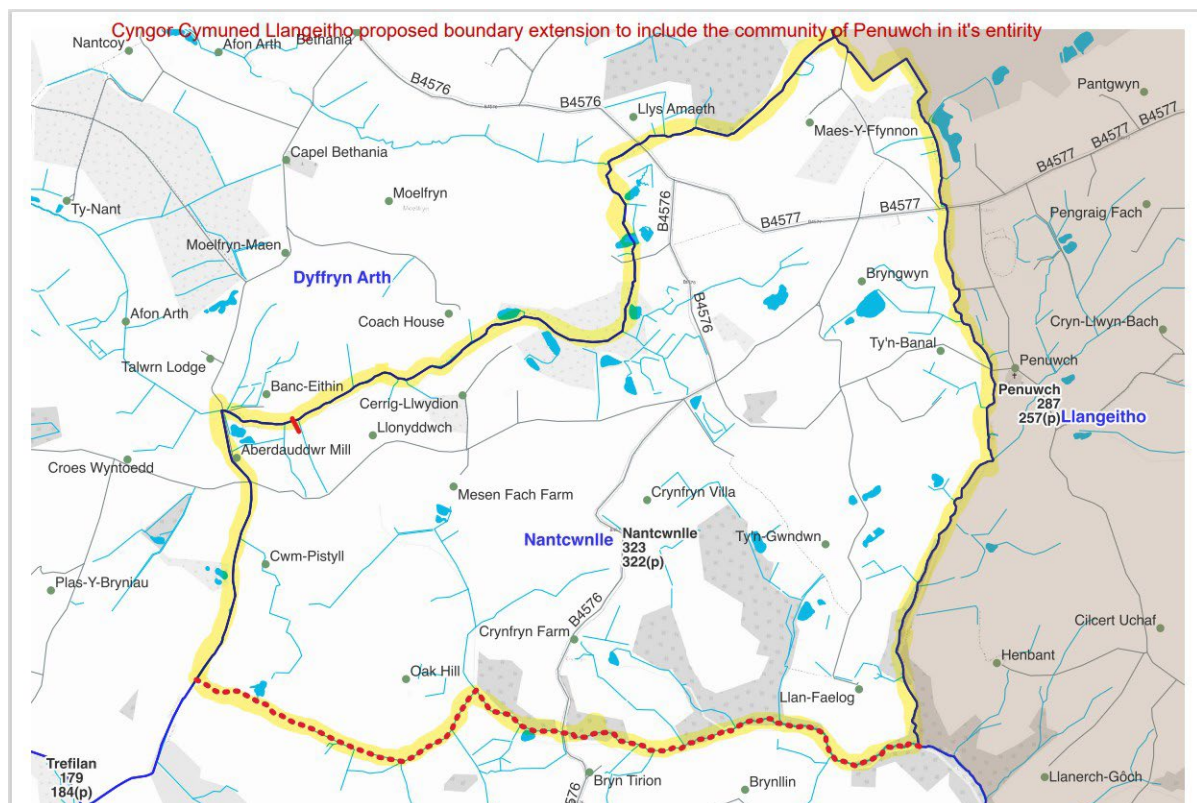
We accept however, that staying as we are, does not meet the criteria as there needs to be 800 electors per Community Council and 400 per ward.

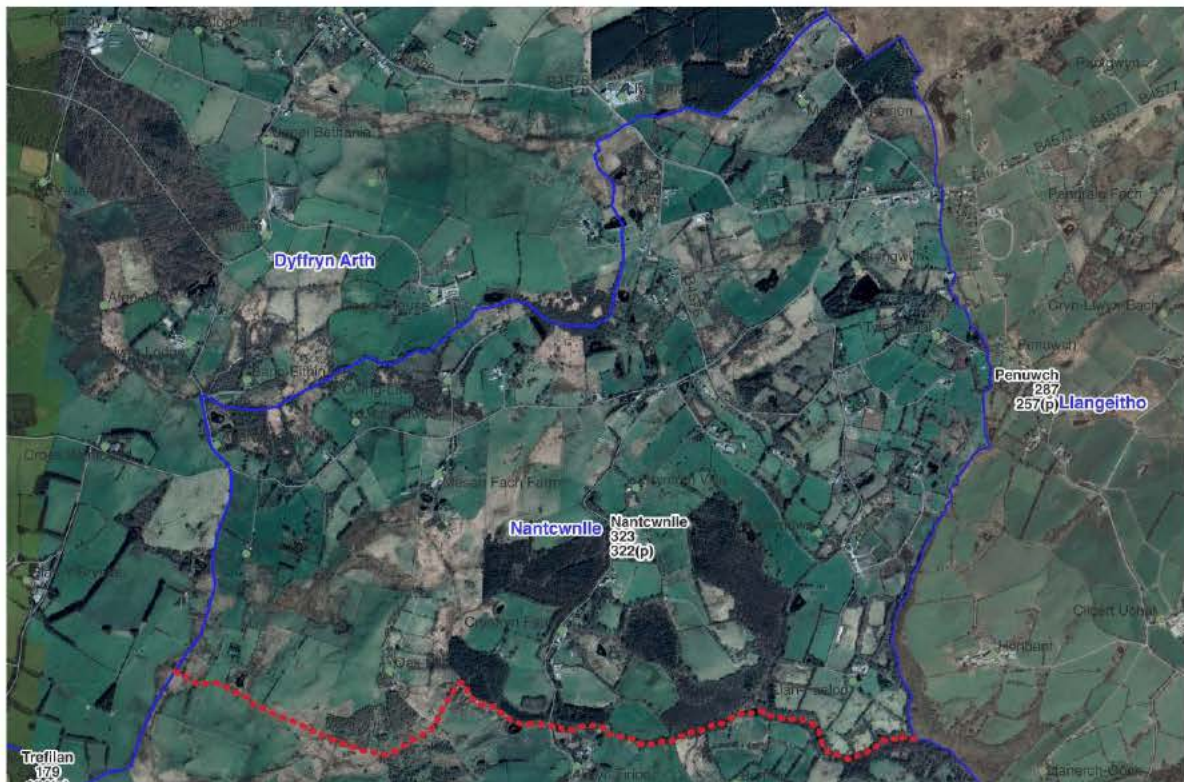
This could easily be achieved if the Penuwch area was fully in Penuwch Ward, Llangeitho Community Council.

Penuwch is a village in its own right, divided between two community councils (Llangeitho and Nantcwnlle) by the river Gwenffrwd which flows through the centre of the hamlet. The village has its own identity and community spirit, and the inhabitants identify as "Penuwchians". By incorporating the Penuwch area as a whole into the Llangeitho Community Council area this identity would be reinforced, and the village would have a stronger voice and better representation at local level.

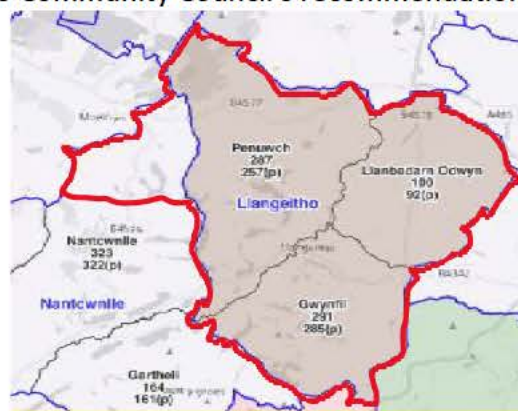
We would like to mention that the 5 councillors remain as representatives of the whole expanded ward.

The northern and western boundary to the extended ward would follow the existing Nantcwnlle boundary, before turning west to follow the stream known as 'Tyle', which flows just below Crynfryn on the B4576, and flows into the Gwenffrwd just south of Llanfaelog. 'Tyle' is the natural boundary between the village of Penuwch and Bwlchllan.





Map showing Llangeitho Community Council's recommendation to change the boundary



Summary

Throughout challenging times of demographic and cultural changes, and throughout the Covid pandemic, the Community Council has provided quality services to the community. The Council is committed to maintaining the integrity of the local area and the quality of life enjoyed by residents.

The Community Council commits to ensuring that the coherence of the Llangeitho Community Council area is maintained, but there is a logical potential to extend the existing boundary to include the whole Penuwch area. The boundaries reflect how the villages and dwellings have evolved over the years. The Community Council will continue to maintain the historic character of the area.

Llangeitho Community Council is confident it has met the boundary commission criteria. The proposed ward boundary amendments raise the electorate to the recommended 800 plus and merge and strengthen the Penuwch area.

We urge members of the Boundary Commission to meet with us to discuss all aspects of our submission and recommendations.

Ceredigion 047 – [REDACTED] – Ysgubor-y-coed

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am concerned at the proposal to merge our community council with the neighbouring councils.
I demand that the community for Ysgubor-y-coed remains in place to fully represent our local community as they have our best interests in place.

Yours,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Ceredigion 048 – [REDACTED] – Llanddewi Brefi

I want to raise my complaints to the proposed changes to the Llanddewi
Brefi Community Council.

I feel that the proposed merger of Llanddewi Brefi, Llangybi and Llanfair Clydogau would entail the existing precept for the three councils will be combined and redistributed so that Llanddewi will lose £3500.00 from the present budget. This would mean a reduction of important services. Suggested savings would include ceasing grass cutting at the playing field and cemetery, street lights to be turned off overnight, the village community centre WHICH IS THE HUB OF THE VILLAGE would not be cleaned or maintained it would lose telephone and internet connections leading to the closure of the centre.

,.

1. STREET LIGHTING. Without street lighting, the safety of the village is at risk, also there is a possibility of Rural Crimes increasing.

2. GRASS CUTTING. If the grass cutting was to cease, the playing field would be unusable, the cemetery would become a wilderness, this is a place of respect for local people and war heroes, the footpath that leads to the community centre which is narrow and needs cutting on a regular basis to would become impassable.

3. COMMUNITY CENTRE. The community centre is one of the important places in the village, it is the home of the local football team Dewi Stars, there is a play area for the children, which would be sadly missed, it is a meeting place for the Young Farmers Club, the Youth Club, a learning centre, the WI use the centre twice a week. There is the Llanddewi Show which is held once a year, this is not only for the people of the village of Llanddewi Brefi but for others in the area and far and beyond, There are many other events like carnival days and Christmas events.

The hall is the base for the COMMUNITY CAFE. Caffi Dewi and was started in October 2023, it is run by volunteers and is open twice a week, this has been a great success, our cakes are homemade and there are a variety of coffees and teas, we do not charge for any of the produce, it is a hub for those people living on their own, any groups who want to meet up and meet other people, it is also a warm place, a happy place, we have had holiday makers, people from other parts of Ceredigion, we have adults with learning difficulties visit the cafe, they enjoy their day out with their carers so that they can meet other people and find that it is a pleasure to know that they feel welcome.

Without this space many would suffer, if the Community Centre went into disrepair because of less funding it would have to close.

If you are the Person/Persons reading this letter at your desk and possibly do not know much about rural life and only see what is written on paper, do not make any changes to the way that we live.

I am opposed to any proposed changes to the Community Council and Boundaries.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 049 – [REDACTED] – Llangynfelyn

Dear Ceredigion Council,

Re: The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission Report

As a resident of Tre'r Ddol in Llangynfelyn ward, I strongly urge you to reconsider merging Llangynfelyn Community Council with Ceulanamaesmawr and Ysgubor-y-Coed councils. Llangynfelyn is a very active community, with a community garden, community hall, art group and community shop and cafe, and a vibrant and varied calendar of events. Many of these groups are funded by the community council, and many events are dependent on council input. Merging the community councils would mean that Llangynfelyn would only have two councillors representing it instead of 9 - and as a smaller ward, I believe it's residents' interests would be greatly disadvantaged by being merged with the much larger ward of Ceulanamaesmawr, which would have 4 councillors. Even if the two councillors for Llangynfelyn combined with the one councillor from Ysgubor-y-Coed, they would still not have a majority on any issue. I believe that Llangynfelyn residents will suffer from under-representation if this merger goes ahead, which will negatively effect our community. As a rural area, many residents sole social life is based in Tre'r Ddol and Taliesin, and without the current level of support that our Community Council is able to provide, our social life will be greatly depleted, which will impact mental health, particularly of older and more vulnerable residents.

Llangynfelyn ward has 498 electors, which is greater than the 400 stated in the guidelines as a minimum. I therefore strongly urge that the amalgamation of the community councils does not go ahead.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 050 – Carys Lewis – Henfynyw Community Council

I write to inform you that the Community Council gave consideration to the Ceredigion Community Review Draft Proposals at its meeting held on 8th May.

Members expressed their disappointment with the recommendations as they were of the view that they did not improve the existing democratic arrangements and that they undermined “effective and convenient local government” for the electors in the Community.

I therefore wish to inform you that the Community Council objects to the Draft proposals for the following reasons:

- a)** combining the community councils of Henfynyw and Llanarth would not result in effective and convenient local government as there was no connection at all between the two communities as they serve two distinct localities with no transport links. The proposed new Community will not reflect local identities.
- b)** a reduction in the number of Members to seven would result in:-
 - less representation for electors in a large rural area
 - with a quorum of a third, a Council meeting would be quorate with only three Members in attendance which is much too small to produce a healthy democratic forum for determining local matters and providing services
- c)** it will not produce any financial savings as all Members decline their basic allowance.

Yours faithfully,

Carys Lewis

Henfynyw Community Council

Ceredigion 051 – [REDACTED] (Clerk) [REDACTED] (Clerk) and [REDACTED] (Clerk) - Ystrad Fflur Community Council, Ystrad Meurig Community Council and Ysbyty Ystwyth Community Council

Dear Sir/ Madam

Attached, for your perusal, the joint response of Ysbyty Ystwyth Community Council, Ystrad Fflur Community Council and Ystrad Meurig Community Council to the Boundary Commission for Wales' Draft Proposals to dissolve the communities of Ysbyty Ystwyth, Ystrad Fflur and Ystrad Meurig and merge the 3 areas to form a New Community, with wards, namely, Ystrad Fflur.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED] – Clerk – Ystrad Fflur Community Council clercystradfflur@gmail.com

[REDACTED] – Clerk – Ystrad Meurig Community Council [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] – Clerk - Ysbyty Ystwyth Community Council [REDACTED]

RE: Consultation – Boundary Commission’s Proposal to abolish the communities of Ysbyty Ystwyth, Ystrad Fflur and Ystrad Meurig and to merge the three areas to form a new warded community of Ystrad Fflur

Response from

Ysbyty Ystwyth (YY) Community Council Ystrad Fflur (YFf) Community Council & Ystrad Meurig (YM) Community Council

Representatives of the above three Community Councils express their strong opposition to the Boundary Commission’s Proposal to abolish the communities of Ysbyty Ystwyth, Ystrad Fflur and Ystrad Meurig to form a new warded community of Ystrad Fflur.

Should this Proposal be accepted, it will mean:

1. YY- reduction in number of Community Cllrs from 8 to 2
2. YFf - reduction in number of Community Cllrs from 10 to 3
3. YM - reduction in number of Community Cllrs from 8 to 2

A decrease from the twenty-six present Community Cllrs to seven, with a wide geographical area to represent can only dilute the voice of local people and democracy.

A reduction of 70% or more of the current representation within each Community Council will imply that areas of interest/expertise/ workforce/local knowledge will be lost within that community.

Having 8 or 10 elected members with a range of skills enables each Community Council to provide a variety of services for the electorate. This helps to build community cohesion and combat isolation within a socially deprived area with limited or non-existent public services e.g. public transport.

It would appear impossible for 2/3 Community Cllrs to adequately represent that community.

Furthermore, representatives of one Community Council will not possess in-depth knowledge of matters appertaining to another Community Council, which will adversely affect decision making and effective working practices. Meetings will be longer and matters appertaining to one present Community Council could appear irrelevant to the other 2 Community Councils.

Each present Community Council has its own characteristics and identity. Historically these three communities have not worked together, due to long standing social and demographic differences and cannot be envisaged in the future.

Recruiting new Community Cllrs has been challenging in the past and can only deteriorate in the future should this Proposal be realised - undertaking the role of a

Community Cllr on a voluntary basis will not deem an attractive proposition especially with the extra workload. Many present members have voiced, that they will not stand at the next election under these proposed guidelines; most are dedicated Cllrs with years of experience and local knowledge. Clerks of the Community Councils are also re-assessing their roles and fiscal savings are difficult to envisage.

Re the Precept, the money raised by the Community Council via Ceredigion County Council, will it be administered in a fair and transparent manner, under the new arrangement? The fiscal value of the Precept differs at present within each Community Council. How can this be reconciled without delivering yet another blow to council-tax payers of certain wards, at a time when they have previously experienced a significant Council Tax increase?

Concern is also expressed re the Welsh Language. The Welsh Language Commissioner aims to achieve 1million Welsh Speakers in Wales by 2050. Presently, two of the Community Councils, Ystrad Fflur and Ystrad Meurig, can conduct their meetings solely through the medium of Welsh. (minutes available in English and simultaneous translation offered where necessary)

The Welsh Language could not be represented at all under the Proposal and, if so, yet another blow to the language and culture.

We believe that the Initial Consultation re this matter had been insufficient and not publicised adequately. Engagement with County and Community Councils was limited.

We also understand that the amalgamation of Community Wards within Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire County Councils is executed on a voluntary basis. Where is the parity when arrangements within Ceredigion County Council dictate otherwise?

This Proposal is a retrograde step in local democracy with huge social, political, and cultural ramifications. Grassroots elected members of Ysbyty Ystwyth, Ystrad Meurig, and Ystrad Fflur Community Councils find it difficult to establish the rationale behind such a Proposal and are extremely disappointed.

Yours

██████████ – Clerk – on behalf of Ystrad Fflur Community Council clercystradfflur@gmail.com

██████████ – Clerk – on behalf of Ystrad Meurig Community Council
████████████████████

██████████ – Clerk – on behalf of Ysbyty Ystwyth Community Council
████████████████████

Ceredigion 052 – [REDACTED] (Clerc) – Ciliau Aeron Community Council

CILIAU AERON Community Council

Clerk: [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], ABERAERON, [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

e-mail: clerc.ciliauaeron@btinternet.com

Local Democracy and Boundary Commission
for Wales
Ground Floor, Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
Cardiff
CF24 0BL

09/05/2024

Dear Sir / Madam

Ceredigion Community Review Draft Proposal

I write to inform you that the Community Council gave consideration to the Ceredigion Community Review Draft Proposals at its meeting held on 11th April.

Members expressed their disappointment with the recommendations as they were of the view that they did not improve the existing democratic arrangements and that they undermined "effective and convenient local government" for the electors in the Community.

Also, the Community Council was being asked by Ceredigion County Council, due to budgetary pressures, to provide more and more services within the community.

I therefore wish to inform you that the Community Council objects to the Draft proposals for the following reasons:

- a) combining the community councils of Ciliau Aeron and Nantcwnlle would not result in effective and convenient local government as there was no connection at all between the two communities as they serve two distinct localities with no transport links. The proposed new Community will not reflect local identities.
- b) a reduction in the number of Members to eight would result in:-
 - less representation for electors in a large rural area
 - with a quorum of a third, a Council meeting would be quorate with only three Members in attendance which is much too small to produce a healthy democratic forum for determining local matters and providing services
- c) it will not produce any financial savings as all Members forgo their basic allowance.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
Clerk to the Council

Ceredigion 053 – [REDACTED] (Clerc) – Dyffryn Arth Community Council

DYFFRYN ARTH Community Council

Clerc / Clerk: [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], ABERAERON, [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

e-mail: clerc.[REDACTED]

Local Democracy and Boundary Commission
for Wales
Ground Floor, Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
Cardiff
CF24 0BL

09/05/2024

Dear Sir / Madam

Ceredigion Community Review Draft Proposals

I write to inform you that the Community Council gave consideration to the Ceredigion Community Review Draft Proposals at its meeting held on 8th April.

Members expressed their disappointment with the recommendations as they were of the view that they did not improve the existing democratic arrangements and that they undermined "effective and convenient local government" for the electors in the Community.

Also, the Community Council was being asked by Ceredigion County Council, due to budgetary pressures, to provide more and more services within the community.

I therefore wish to inform you that the Community Council objects to the Draft Proposals as it is of the opinion that a reduction in the number of Members to seven would result in:-

- less representation for electors in a large rural area
- with a quorum of a third, a Council meeting would be quorate with only three Members in attendance which is much too small to produce a healthy democratic forum for determining local matters and providing services
- with more and more services being transferred by the County Council to the Community Council, a reduction in Members would result in a greater workload for Members in terms of time and resources for providing these services

It will not produce any financial savings as all Members forgo their basic allowance.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Clerk to the Council

Ceredigion 054 – [REDACTED] (Clerk) – Llansantffraed Community Council

Arolwg Cymunedol Ceredigion Community Review

Rwyn atodi at eich sylw sylwadau Cyngor Cymuned Llansantffraed ar y Cynigion Drafft ar gyfer y Gymuned.

I attach for your attention the comments of Llansantffraed Community Council on the Draft Proposals for the Community.

[REDACTED]
Clerc y Cyngor / Clerk to the Council

Cyngor Cymuned **LLANSANTFFRAED** Community Council

Clerc/Clerk: [REDACTED]

Local Democracy and Boundary Commission
for Wales
Ground Floor, Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
Cardiff
CF24 0BL

09/05/2024

Dear Sir / Madam

Ceredigion Community Review Draft Proposals

I write to inform you that the Community Council gave consideration to the Ceredigion Community Review Draft Proposals at its meeting held on 2nd April.

Members expressed their disappointment with the recommendations as they were of the view that they did not improve the existing democratic arrangements and that they undermined "effective and convenient local government" for the electors in the Community.

Also, the Community Council was being asked by Ceredigion County Council, due to budgetary pressures, to provide more and more services within the community.

I therefore wish to inform you that the Community Council opposes the draft Proposals as it is of the opinion that a reduction in the number of Members to seven would result in:-

- less representation for electors in a large rural area
- with a quorum of a third, a Council meeting would be quorate with only three Members in attendance which is much too small to produce a healthy democratic forum for determining local matters and providing services
- with more and more services being transferred by the County Council to the Community Council, a reduction in Members would result in a greater workload for Members in terms of time and resources for providing these services

It will not produce any financial savings as all Members forgo their basic allowance.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
Clerk to the Council

Ceredigion 055 – [REDACTED] – Llanddewi Brefi

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing in response to the proposal to the Ceredigion Community Boundary Review. The proposed changes will have a major negative affect on Llanddewi Brefi in some of the following areas:

- 1) The viability of our Community hall as a facility for the community. Indeed your changes may result in the closure of this valuable community resource.
- 2) Street Lighting,
- 3) Youth Clubs support,
- 4) Hall cleaning and maintenance,
- 5) Grass cutting services for both the playing fields and Churchyard.

The proposes you set out will result in fewer services being available for the community.

It will also introduce a major reduction in local representation on the Community Council (from 10 to 4), significantly impacting the ability for those councillors to represent us affectively.

Councillors will also be impacted – most of our current councillors to not receive any payments for their services. The proposal may well change that as in person meetings will be less accessible requiring them to travel between the new wards incurring additional costs for themselves.

There is absolutely no need to make any changes to the boundaries there have been no significant changes in population or infrastructure in our area.

I trust you will take on board the issues I have raised.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 056 – Cllr David Greaney – Llanbadarn Fawr Community Council

Arolwg Cymunedol Ceredigion - Cynigion Drafft

Ynghlwm y mae barn Cyngor Cymuned Llanbadarn Fawr am y Cynigion Drafft

= = =

Ceredigion Community Review - Draft Proposals

Here, in the attachment, are the views of Llanbadarn Fawr Community Council to the draft proposals.

Yn gywir / Yours truly

David Greaney

[Redacted signature block]

C: [Redacted] Clerc [Redacted]

Comments by Llanbadarn Fawr Community Council in regard to the

Review of the Community Arrangements of the County of Ceredigion Draft Proposals Report (March 2024) by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales

Clause 236

- *We strongly disagree that “the proposal provides for more effective and convenient local government”*

Clause 252 re council size policy submitted by Ceredigion County Council entitling a proposed Faenor and Llanbadarn Fawr Community Council size of 12 councillors:

- *This figure is unworkably small and would pose many, many problems for the Community Council proposed. In regard to having good democracy in the future, we believe that the figure of 12 councillors for such a large geographical area is untenable.*

Further comments

Identity of Llanbadarn Fawr

Llanbadarn Fawr has a *strong* identity and this has not been diluted to any great degree by demographic changes in the last couple of decades. Indeed, people living in Llanbadarn Fawr relate to the place as being much, much older than Aberystwyth nearby and they understand that it is a settlement that dates from antiquity. The Council’s Coat of Arms reflects this understanding.

Having a Community Council of our own enhances Llanbadarn Fawr’s distinctive and widely-cherished identity.

Sulien Ward and Padarn Ward

The proposed reduction of councillors in Sulien Ward from 9 to 3 and in Padarn Ward from 6 to 3 would pose a significant problem for residents in our wards.

The things achieved in Llanbadarn (and many things hoped for, and being planned for) are predicated on having a good number of local people volunteering to represent their fellow residents. This creates a good bond between people generally and helps sustain a community that faces many challenges (such as loss of green areas; lack of affordable housing; poor infrastructure [e.g. drains, culverts]; traffic issues).

From time to time, looking after both wards’ interests demands a great deal from its current number of councillors. Having fewer councillors would mean having a workload that would be excessive at times.

It needs to be noted that Community Councillors are concerned citizens willing to volunteer to devote time to representing their community with their personal resources. Consequently, we feel that the proposed larger council area would weaken the effectiveness of a community council that would be much smaller in number. The workload, too, on 12 councillors in the proposed set-up would dissuade people from standing for election as Community Councillors. We’re quite sure that many capable people would choose not to stand for seats on such a council.

Human Resources

Recruiting clerks is very challenging and places great demands on Community Councils.

The clerks of both Llanbadarn Fawr and Faenor are part-time (and sole) employees who work from home. Creating a 'Faenor and Llanbadarn Fawr' community area creates a much larger working landscape with an increased number of challenges for the one and only clerk that a new council would employ.

We feel strongly that this would impose a considerable burden on a Clerk and would quickly consume her/his working week leaving much, inevitably, unattended too. In fact, a council in its capacity as a responsible and caring employer, would need to restrict projects (e.g. in areas of partnership working) in order to ensure that the Clerk's workload was reasonable and provided for a sensible work-life balance. In our view, the workload on a clerk in the proposed arrangement would deter people from applying for the post of Clerk/RFO.

Economic pressure from the Local Authority

It has been noticeable for quite some time that the LA has been endeavouring to share out its functions to Community Councils (e.g. maintenance of playgrounds, cleaning roads, weeding roadsides). With the best will in the world, most Community Councils should not take on additional functions which are not legal duties upon them. However welcome Community Councils working alongside the LA is, a smaller Community Council of an enlarged area could face pressure to take on financially-burdensome tasks that would add to the workload of both Clerk and Councillors.

Government and democracy

Were the proposal to establish a Faenor and Llanbadarn Fawr Council to be realised then the 12 elected Councillors and their Clerk would have to cope both with being responsible for a new geographical area (with its particular and additional demands on them) and negotiate community life with diminishing financial resources (and the attendant public discontent). Furthermore, running sub-committees would be much harder with a reduced number of councillors. Many capable people would baulk at the thought of standing for election as Community Councillors in such circumstances. The combined community-level government that is proposed for our two neighbouring areas looks very unattractive and not easily workable.

As in many areas, Llanbadarn Fawr Community Council has had to work hard from time to time to address the democratic deficit in relation to unfilled seats. Establishing the proposed new council area, in our view, would exacerbate the problem of the democratic deficit in both the communities involved. Many community councillors in our two areas are not politically aligned and even when they are, political lines are drawn only extremely rarely. The basic motivation for being a councillor here is to help the community at ground level to be a happy and successful one and to get people to work together for the good of all. Certainly in Llanbadarn, Councillors are generally well-known. The proposed arrangement, having far fewer councillors, would undermine this beneficial and co-operative relationship.

Llanbadarn Fawr Community Council

Clerk: [REDACTED]

9.5.24

Ceredigion 057 – Cllr Wyn Evans – Lledrod Ward

Good morning as county councillor for the Lledrod ward and have attended recently the three community council within my ward namely Ysbyty Ystwyth and Pontrhydygroes, Ystrad Meurig , and Lledrod. I totally agree with everything that these Community councils have put in their responses to this consultation. As a County councillor I strongly disagree with all the proposals put on the table by the boundaries commission for the reasons that the proposal takes all local representation away from local communities and thus makes the local rural voice more diluted. Also you are asking communities here to work together who have never ever worked together before as you are crossing the boundary which splits the north of the county from the middle of the county. It is vitally important that all changes stay within county council wards. It is important that we look after the interests here of our rural communities and the rural voice is heard and I can not see how this is achieved in your proposals. It will overly complicate the situation. Can I ask that you take every point that is made in these responses and take good time and consideration and come to a decision that works for all concerned. Kind Regards Cllr Wyn Evans

--

Good morning

I write in my capacity as clerk to Trefeurig Community Council and in particular to respond to your consultation. Please See comments below :

Dear Sirs

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your draft findings. Trefeurig Community Council have discussed these and have come to the following conclusions.

1. We note that changes to our boundaries are minimal and offer no further comment.
2. The number of councillors is to be reduced to 7. Trefeurig is made up of several hamlets in addition to Penrhynoch. Reducing the number of councillors would diminish the representation for these communities on the council. This would be a deficit in the democratic process for Trefeurig and other councils representing rural communities.
3. A reduction in the number of councillors would increase the likelihood of failing to reach a quorum at meetings. Again a deficit in the democratic process as decisions could not be taken.
4. Trefeurig has, as a minor authority, representation on a number of voluntary organisations within it's boundaries. The council endeavours to share responsibilities out among councillors so no individual is burdened with serving on several committees. Reducing the number of councillors would put a greater onus on those councillors on a reduced council.
5. Community Councillors in general and in particular on Trefeurig Community Council serve for free. Reducing the number of councillors would not lead to any savings to the local authority.

For the reasons outlined in paragraphs 2-5 Cyngor Cymuned Trefeurig opposes the proposal to reduce the number of councillors to 7 and asks the commission to reconsider.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 059 – Cllr Eryl Evans – Llangybi Ward

Good morning.

Please find attached my final response to the proposed Boundary Commission changes.

Please accept my apologies if this has previously been received by you, but I am experiencing problems with my lap top connection and emails are bouncing back leaving me unsure what is getting through. Please delete any previous correspondence in favour of this attachment.

Kind regards

Cllr Eryl Evans

Llangybi Ward

Response to Boundary commission proposals.

The current proposed review placed emphasis on ensuring that communities continue to reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government across the principal council area.

The current proposal to diminish both community councils within the Llangybi ward and amalgamate with neighbouring council ward of Llanddewi Brefi is unpalatable and unacceptable. In the first instance we would insist that all community councils are kept within existing County council wards in line with the Boundary Commission review of 2021. Overlapping county council wards will serve only to confuse: there would be a lack of clarity as to where responsibilities lie and there would be a loss of knowledge and understanding of the immediate area and its needs. Therefore, keeping and working within the original County Council footprint is essential.

Proposals to combine the county wards by simply doubling up the area which they cover is not effective governance and will not work in rural areas which span large distances and terrain and will not reflect electoral parity and democratic fairness. Natural grouping of villages will be negatively compromised. Added to this, the lack of rural transport links between rural villages and larger settlements will create further division due to the lack of travel opportunities to attend meetings and electoral services.

Additionally, the significant difference in precept between the Llangybi ward and proposed neighbouring Council ward will cause several issues and result in many unintended consequences and difficulties in raising, reserving and allocating expenditure.

A bigger allocation of councillors from the main village could also result in decisions being made that compromise the smaller more rural villages.

There will be a need for 2/3 County Councillors to attend each meeting.

The proposed merger is a significant departure from the original scoping area and not one that can be supported. It is of concern that the Boundary's Commission have not taken opinions from the first round of consultation into consideration.

I support the views of both my community councils and the views of the electorate within my ward:

a) Merging with neighbouring council ward is not feasible or acceptable.

b) Merging both community councils within the Llangybi ward is not desirable but would be a more acceptable alternative should the need arise but is not something that either community council wish to do.

I am confident that there is strong evidence to suggest that both Llanfair Clydogau and Llangybi community council should not only stay in existing Council ward but are also effective in their ability to stay as two separate community councils. The geographical terrain and current transport issues simply does not support amalgamating both communities particularly as both community wards have different travel routes to access services with little need to cross over to each.

I believe that both Llangybi Community council and Llanfair Clydogau community councils are:

- *Compliant in their governance

- *Have a natural geographical boundary between wards (at least of 3 miles of hilly open countryside)

- *Effective in developing and supporting community projects – with more exciting community projects in the pipeline

- *Have a clear knowledge and understanding of their area and able to effectively raise and respond to local needs, issues and planning applications
- *Key in supporting local identity and maintaining a sense of belonging
- *Willing to give their time for free
- *The current allocation of councillors allows for a work/life/volunteer/time balance
- * Are a fair and diverse group who work well together
- *Support a bilingual community
- *There are currently no vacant councillor or clerk positions within either community ward

There has been much deliberation and discussions at numerous meetings and community councillors share strong feelings uniting them in their response to proposed boundary changes.

New proposals will

- *Result in losing a sense of local identity and knowledge of immediate area.
- *Require some councillors to travel up to 25 miles round trip– this is not sustainable travel
- *Result in experienced councillors standing down
- *Struggle to recruit for a wider area
- *Councillors will be applying for member's allowance/clerks will require pay rises for greater responsibilities
- *Encourage more zoom meetings, decreased use of village halls resulting in less community cohesion
- *Meetings will be longer, more frequent and at times topics irrelevant between members resulting in drop off from lack of interest
- *Proposals do not support language and heritage
- *Are not suitable for rural wards and do not reflect geography of villages

I also represent the Gartheli ward of Llwynygroes on the Nantwnlle Community Council. This is a group that operates solely through the medium of Welsh and is an effective council. Supporting our traditional Welsh communities and our language and our ability to conduct business through this medium is a pleasure and of the utmost importance. Being able to converse in one's mother tongue should be given due consideration. At a time when we are actively aiming for a million Welsh speakers by 2050 this is an opportunity to lead by example. Current proposals to divert this Community Council into Ciliau Aeron ward whom they have had no previous relations with, demolishes the ethos of supporting local community and crosses unnatural geographical boundaries' and should be reconsidered in line with the response given by Nantcwnlle.

Lastly, I would advocate as in the first consultation that any proposed name change be made based on the 30m high historical landmark monument of Twr y Dderi/Derry Ormond Tower which is easily visible to most villages within the ward and is the name that the local community school and YFC is based upon. Ideally, I believe a proposed name change should not favour one village above others and should be made up from a carefully considered decision between local community councils to ensure local identity and ownership.

Ceredigion 059 Part 2 – Cllr Eryl Evans – Llangybi Ward

Good morning.

Please find attached my final response to the proposed Boundary Commission changes.

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Kind regards

Cllr Eryl Evans

Llangybi Ward

Response to Boundary commission proposals.

The current proposed review placed emphasis on ensuring that communities continue to reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government across the principal council area.

The current proposal to diminish both community councils within the Llangybi ward and amalgamate with neighbouring council ward of Llanddewi Brefi is unpalatable and unacceptable. In the first instance we would insist that all community councils are kept within existing County council wards in line with the Boundary Commission review of 2021. Overlapping county council wards will serve only to confuse: there would be a lack of clarity as to where responsibilities lie and there would be a loss of knowledge and understanding of the immediate area and its needs. Therefore, keeping and working within the original County Council footprint is essential.

Proposals to combine the county wards by simply doubling up the area which they cover is not effective governance and will not work in rural areas which span large distances and terrain and will not reflect electoral parity and democratic fairness. Natural grouping of villages will be negatively compromised. Added to this, the lack of rural transport links between rural villages and larger settlements will create further division due to the lack of travel opportunities to attend meetings and electoral services.

Additionally, the significant difference in precept between the Llangybi ward and proposed neighbouring Council ward will cause several issues and result in many unintended consequences and difficulties in raising, reserving and allocating expenditure.

A bigger allocation of councillors from the main village could also result in decisions being made that compromise the smaller more rural villages.

There will be a need for 2/3 County Councillors to attend each meeting.

The proposed merger is a significant departure from the original scoping area and not one that can be supported. It is of concern that the Boundary's Commission have not taken opinions from the first round of consultation into consideration.

I support the views of both my community councils and the views of the electorate within my ward:

a) Merging with neighbouring council ward is not feasible or acceptable.

b) Merging both community councils within the Llangybi ward is not desirable but would be a more acceptable alternative should the need arise but is not something that either community council wish to do.

I am confident that there is strong evidence to suggest that both Llanfair Clydogau and Llangybi community council should not only stay in existing Council ward but are also effective in their ability to stay as two separate community councils. The geographical terrain and current transport issues simply does not support amalgamating both communities particularly as both community wards have different travel routes to access services with little need to cross over to each.

I believe that both Llangybi Community council and Llanfair Clydogau community councils are:

*Compliant in their governance

*Have a natural geographical boundary between wards (at least of 3 miles of hilly open countryside)

*Effective in developing and supporting community projects – with more exciting community projects in the pipeline

- *Have a clear knowledge and understanding of their area and able to effectively raise and respond to local needs, issues and planning applications
- *Key in supporting local identity and maintaining a sense of belonging
- *Willing to give their time for free
- *The current allocation of councillors allows for a work/life/volunteer/time balance
- * Are a fair and diverse group who work well together
- *Support a bilingual community
- *There are currently no vacant councillor or clerk positions within either community ward

There has been much deliberation and discussions at numerous meetings and community councillors share strong feelings uniting them in their response to proposed boundary changes.

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- *Require some councillors to travel up to 25 miles round trip– this is not sustainable travel
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- *Councillors will be applying for member's allowance/clerks will require pay rises for greater responsibilities
- *Encourage more zoom meetings, decreased use of village halls resulting in less community cohesion
- *Meetings will be longer, more frequent and at times topics irrelevant between members resulting in drop off from lack of interest
- *Proposals do not support language and heritage
- *Are not suitable for rural wards and do not reflect geography of villages

I also represent the Gartheli ward of Llwynygroes on the Nantwnlle Community Council. This is a group that operates solely through the medium of Welsh and is an effective council. Supporting our traditional Welsh communities and our language and our ability to conduct business through this medium is a pleasure and of the utmost importance. Being able to converse in one's mother tongue should be given due consideration. At a time when we are actively aiming for a million Welsh speakers by 2050 this is an opportunity to lead by example. Current proposals to divert this Community Council into Ciliau Aeron ward whom they have had no previous relations with, demolishes the ethos of supporting local community and crosses unnatural geographical boundaries' and should be reconsidered in line with the response given by Nantcwnlle.

Lastly, I would advocate as in the first consultation that any proposed name change be made based on the 30m high historical landmark monument of Twr y Dderi/Derry Ormond Tower which is easily visible to most villages within the ward and is the name that the local community school and YFC is based upon. Ideally, I believe a proposed name change should not favour one village above others and should be made up from a carefully considered decision between local community councils to ensure local identity and ownership.

Ceredigion 060 – Cllr Gwyn W Evans – Llanrhystud Ward

Dear Sir/madam

As a County Councillor in Ceredigion for Llanrhystud, Llanddeiniol, Llangwryfon and Trefenter, I wish to confirm my complete opposition to the plan submitted so far

It takes no consideration of the local communities, the ties and history

Moreover, the practical solution of linking with my whole ward has not been considered, or turned down

There is also the not unreasonable view that Llanrhystud and Llanddeiniol can stand alone as now since they are over 800 voters which was the benchmark you as a Commission were asked to work to

It is vital that the current suggested plan be ditched and the whole of Ceredigion be looked at again using the smaller manageable communities that are available today

We understand that some will have to be subsumed but it needs only to be some, especially the ones that are not “behaving” properly or even lawfully

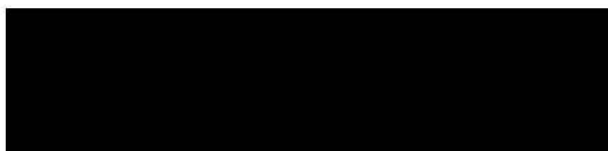
The other aspect that needs reviewing is the number of community councillors, the suggested numbers are seriously low considering that more work is going to be sent down the line from the County Council and that the cost of these councillors is a pittance considering the work they do. The voluntary element must not be ignored or lost

Regards

Cllr Gwyn W Evans

Gwyn W Evans

Cynghorydd / Councillor



Ward Llanrhystud

Ceredigion 061 – [REDACTED] – Llanddewi Brefi

Dear Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales,

I am writing to express my strong objection to the draft proposals outlined in the Ceredigion Community Review 2024. While I appreciate the Commission's efforts to ensure effective and convenient local government, I believe that certain aspects of the proposed changes could have detrimental effects on the community of Llanddewi Brefi.

1. **Increased Population Coverage:** The proposed expansion of population coverage within Llanddewi Brefi may strain existing resources and infrastructure. With more residents to serve, essential services such as healthcare, education, and public transportation could become overburdened. It is crucial to assess the capacity of these services to accommodate the anticipated growth.
2. **Reduced Budget per Person:** A decrease in the budget allocated per person could severely impact the quality of services provided to Llanddewi Brefi residents. Adequate funding is essential for maintaining roads, parks, community centers, and other amenities. Without sufficient financial support, the well-being of our community may suffer.
3. **The proposed reduction in the number of councillors representing Llanddewi Brefi raises concerns about effective representation.** Fewer councillors mean less direct advocacy for our community's needs and interests. It is essential to maintain a reasonable ratio of councillors to residents to ensure robust democratic processes.
4. **Community Boundaries and Identity:** The proposed alterations to community boundaries may significantly impact the identity and cohesion of Llanddewi Brefi. As a historic village with deep-rooted cultural ties, any changes that disrupt the existing sense of community could lead to social fragmentation and loss of heritage.
5. **Service Provision and Accessibility:** Llanddewi Brefi relies on local services, including schools, healthcare facilities, and public transportation. If the proposed boundary adjustments result in reduced access to essential services, it would disproportionately affect the well-being of residents, particularly the elderly and vulnerable populations.
6. **Economic Impact:** The local economy in Llanddewi Brefi is closely tied to its current boundaries. Alterations could affect businesses, tourism, and employment opportunities. It is crucial to consider the economic repercussions of any changes and ensure that the community's livelihoods are not adversely affected.
7. **Community Engagement and Consultation:** The consultation process should actively involve residents of Llanddewi Brefi. Their insights, concerns, and suggestions must be taken into account during the review. Transparent communication and genuine engagement are essential to building trust and ensuring fair representation.
8. **Preserving Heritage and Culture:** Llanddewi Brefi has a rich history, including its connection to the St. David's Church, which dates back to the 6th century. Any boundary modifications should prioritize the preservation of cultural landmarks and traditions that define the community.

In conclusion, I urge the Commission to reconsider the proposed changes in light of the unique circumstances of Llanddewi Brefi. Let us work together to maintain the integrity of this cherished community while striving for effective governance.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Llanddewi Brefi

Ceredigion

[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern

I am writing to express my strong objection to the draft proposals outlined in the Ceredigion Community Review 2024. While I appreciate the Commission's efforts to ensure effective and convenient local government, I believe that certain aspects of the proposed changes could have detrimental effects on the community of Llanddewi Brefi.

1. **Increased Population Coverage:** The proposed expansion of population coverage within Llanddewi Brefi may strain existing resources and infrastructure. With more residents to serve, essential services such as healthcare, education, and public transportation could become overburdened. It is crucial to assess the capacity of these services to accommodate the anticipated growth.
2. **Reduced Budget per Person:** A decrease in the budget allocated per person may severely impact the quality of services provided to Llanddewi Brefi residents. Adequate funding is essential for maintaining roads, parks, community centers, and other amenities. Without sufficient financial support, the well-being of our community may suffer.
3. **The proposed reduction in the number of councillors representing Llanddewi Brefi raises concerns about effective representation.** Fewer councillors mean less direct advocacy for our community's needs and interests. It is essential to maintain a reasonable ratio of councillors to residents to ensure robust democratic processes.
4. **Community Boundaries and Identity:** The proposed alterations to community boundaries may significantly impact the identity and cohesion of Llanddewi Brefi. As a historic village with deep-rooted cultural ties, any changes that disrupt the existing sense of community could lead to social fragmentation and loss of heritage.
5. **Service Provision and Accessibility:** Llanddewi Brefi relies on local services, including schools, healthcare facilities, and public transportation. If the proposed boundary adjustments result in reduced access to essential services, it would disproportionately affect the well-being of residents, particularly the elderly and vulnerable populations.
6. **Economic Impact:** The local economy in Llanddewi Brefi is closely tied to its current boundaries. Alterations could affect businesses, tourism, and employment opportunities. It is crucial to consider the economic repercussions of any changes and ensure that the community's livelihoods are not adversely affected.
7. **Community Engagement and Consultation:** The consultation process should actively involve residents of Llanddewi Brefi. Their insights, concerns, and suggestions must be taken into account during the review. Transparent communication and genuine engagement are essential to building trust and ensuring fair representation.
8. **Preserving Heritage and Culture:** Llanddewi Brefi has a rich history, including its connection to the St. David's Church, which dates back to the 6th century. Any boundary modifications should prioritize the preservation of cultural landmarks and traditions that define the community.

In conclusion, I urge the Commission to reconsider the proposed changes in light of the unique circumstances of Llanddewi Brefi. Let us work together to maintain the integrity of this cherished community while striving for effective governance.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Llanddewi Brefi

Ceredigion

[REDACTED]

Dear Ceredigion Council,

Re: The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission Report

I strongly urge you not to merge Llangynfelyn Community Council with Ceulanamaesmawr and Ysgubor-y-Coed councils. Llangynfelyn is a very active and focused council serving its community with many initiatives including: a community garden, a community hall, an art group a community shop and cafe, they organise a vibrant and varied calendar of events.

Many of these groups are funded by the community council, and many events are dependent on council input. Merging the community councils would mean that Llangynfelyn would only have two councillors representing it instead of 9 and I believe it's residents' interests would be greatly disadvantaged by being merged with the much larger ward of Ceulanamaesmawr, which would have 4 councillors.

I believe that Llangynfelyn residents will suffer from under-representation and a dilution of its current practices and arrangements if this merger goes ahead. There is no doubt a merger will have a negative effect on our community. As a rural area, many residents sole social life is based in Tre'r Ddol and Taliesin, and without the current level of support that our Community Council is able to provide, our social life will be greatly depleted, which will impact mental health, particularly of older and more vulnerable residents.

I therefore strongly urge that the amalgamation of the community councils does not go ahead, and you leave things as they are.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Llangynfelyn residents

Cyngor Tref Aberaeron Town Council

ABERAERON
CEREDIGION

Ffôn - Aberaeron - Tel

ABERAERON
CEREDIGION

e-bost / e-mail: ctaberaeron@btinternet.com

Clerc

Clerc

Local Democracy and Boundary Commission
for Wales
Ground Floor, Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
Cardiff
CF24 0BL

9th May 2024

Dear Sir / Madam

Ceredigion Community Review Draft Proposals

I write to inform you that consideration was given by the Town Council to the Ceredigion Community Review Draft Proposals for the Community at its meeting held on 9th April 2024.

Members objected strongly to the recommendations as the Members were of the view that they did not improve the existing democratic arrangements and that they undermined "effective and convenient local government" for the electors in the Community.

You will know that Aberaeron, as one of Ceredigion's six designated towns, provides services such as shops, health and social services, schools, play and leisure facilities and entertainment for its residents, residents of neighbouring communities and holidaying visitors. A large percentage of residents are elderly and its population increases greatly during the summer season with a large influx of visitors. The Town Council is being asked by Ceredigion County Council, due to budgetary pressures, to provide more and more services and facilities which underpin this provision. To that effect, the Town Council is being relied upon to provide an increased number of services which requires greater commitment by its Members in terms of time and resources.

I therefore wish to advise that the Town Council objects to the Draft Proposals as it is of the opinion that a reduction in the number of Members to seven would result in:-

- less democratic representation for the Town's electors and residents generally
- with a quorum of a third, a Council meeting would be quorate with only three Members in attendance which is much too small a number to produce a healthy democratic forum for determining local matters and providing services
- undermining the feasibility and practicality of the Council's proposals for increasing its effectiveness by establishing working groups to specialise in specific areas

- a greater workload for Councillors in providing and managing the services being transferred by the County Council to the Town Council

It would also not produce any financial savings as all Members decide to forgo their basic allowance.

Yours faithfully

 Town Clerk

Ceredigion 065 – [REDACTED] – Eglwys Fach

[REDACTED]

Eglwys fach

[REDACTED]

Hi,

I am writing to express my dissatisfaction with the proposed merger of Ysgubor-y-coed community council into the Ceulanamaesmawr council.

As a councillor and resident of Eglwys fach, I think our 3 villages will end up under-represented, and I cannot see how this can be democratic. We are in a rural area, and the number of residents does not meet the new criteria, but this is part of what makes our community special. We have a completely separate identity to the villages of Talybont and Taliesin, for example.

The community council is very active, we support our local hall (The Iron Room) and our local church. If we were to be swallowed up by a larger council with only one representative, it's hard to see how these local amenities and other projects would be able to secure support.

Surely there can be exceptions to the rules, one size does not fit all.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 066 – [REDACTED] – Llanddewi Brefi

Your just out to ruin our community by diluting our councilors to a stupid level and then making them work in other areas they no nothing about a huge amount of local knowledge will be lost, then they won't be able to cope and will make poor decisions.

Then you will ruin and probably close our village hall wich is the hun of our lovely village.

IF SOMETHING WORKS DONT FIX IT !!

The Council took away our school.

The pub closed down because of stupid high council tax and business tax

Our one and only village shop suffered the same fate

Now you want to kill off our community

Completely with yet another stupid idea.

Just go away and leave us well alone!!

PLEASE .

Ceredigion 067 – [REDACTED] – Llanddewi Brefi

Dear Sir,

I write in opposition to the proposed change to the Llanddewi Brefi boundary.

Our local Community Council is vital in advocating for our community and the loss of their number would severely impact their ability to make a true impact. I am also greatly concerned that these changes will compromise the already stretched funding in a rural community where the village hall in particular plays an important role in bringing folk together. Our young people as well as older members of the village use this facility for many purposes treating it as a real 'hub'. Please do not underestimate the importance of this proposed change which will certainly have a major adverse effect on our community resilience and our ability to support each other in very many different ways.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I sincere hope you will understand the vital need to retain things as they are.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Llanddewi Brefi

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Ceredigion 068 – Clerk - Pontarfynach Community Council

REVIEW OF COMMUNITY ARRANGEMENTS OF THE COUNTY OF CEREDIGION

Response of Pontarfynach Community Council

Pontarfynach Community Council discussed the review and would like to submit the following observations noting that they cannot support the proposed amalgamation of Pontarfynach Community Council and Blaenrheidol Community Council for the following reasons:

Lack of representation

Currently Pontarfynach Community Council has 8 members who are equally split across the Community Council and whereby majority of the local residents of Pontarfynach Community Council know or are aware of who their Community Councillors are therefore able to approach them if there are any issues that they need to raise.

Under the proposed arrangements, there will be 8 Councillors split across the two new wards, 4 from Pontarfynach ward and 4 from Blaenrheidol ward, currently between the two wards there are 16 Councillors, 8 in each of the two Community Councils.

It is predicted that a large Community Council can't represent the local residents as effectively as a small Community Council and as the number of Councillors will be reduced it's inevitable that the local knowledge and experience of current Community Councillors will be lost.

As Pontarfynach Community Council serves an area of three main villages, Devil's Bridge, Cwmystwyth and Trisant and Blaenrheidol representing Ponterwyd and Ystumtuen it's likely that residents won't know or be aware of who their elected members will be and most of them will feel less comfortable in approaching someone from outside their village or community. Although both Community Councils are similar in nature of their representations

i.e. both have small B and C roads, although Blaenrheidol represents a trunk road and Pontarfynach an A road;

both have rural schools and village halls.

It will be difficult for all Community Councillors to have knowledge of the whole area of the new amalgamated Community Council as there will be a distance of near to 15 miles between some of the locations and at present many community councillors are motivated by wanting to serve their own local community. If the area is too big and councillors do not feel they are serving their own community then some councillors will be lost. It can be difficult to recruit councillors even as it is now.

Payments to Councillors

In the past the Community Councillors of Pontarfynach have opted out of receiving the mandatory payments to Councillors as is the case in a majority of other Councils across Wales. It is envisaged that with the new proposal of merging Community Councils into larger Councils, with fewer Councillors, the workload of Community Councillors will increase and therefore more Community Councillors will be accepting these mandatory payments. As these payments are received through the precept it will place additional financial pressure on local residents through the Council Tax.

Clerks' Salary/Workload

By merging the two Community Councils it will entail more work for the Clerk, which will mean additional hours and therefore increased salary, again which could be an additional financial burden on local residents through the Council Tax taking into account the increase in eligible properties paying Council Tax.

Pontarfynach Community Council urges the re-consideration of this amalgamation and to keep the status quo so that Pontarfynach and Blaenrheidol Community Councils can continue to serve the local residents in a democratic and effective way.

Ceredigion 069 – [REDACTED] – Llanrhystud

Dear Sirs,

I write in response to the proposals which you have set out in your review of the community structure within Ceredigion, with particular reference to your proposal to amalgamate the Community Councils of Llanfarian and Llanrhystud.

I have been involved in local government for many years, having served as an elected Borough Councillor, as an appointed independent member of Ceredigion's Ethics and Standards Committee, and as a former political party officer at national level. More importantly, however, I have been a resident of Ceredigion since 1990, closely involved with the local authority as well as with the health sector (as a former member of the Community Health Council) and the voluntary sector (I was a founding Director and former Chair of the Ceredigion CVC), and I am intimately acquainted with the practicalities of electoral organisation within the County. For instance, I was appointed by the County Council to carry out a review (twice) of all the polling stations within the county, to report on their accessibility and in some cases to propose alternatives.

In this connection, from my long acquaintance with the social geography of the county, I strongly oppose the suggestion in your Community Review to merge the Community Councils of Llanfarian and Llanrhystud. While the two communities do share a short common border, the proposal ignores the actual physical layout of the various urban and rural residential communities within the two Communities. These are two very different areas, with their main centres nearly ten miles apart, and share very little in common except for the fact that the A487 main road passes through both of them.

Llanfarian is undoubtedly an suburban part of the Aberystwyth built-up area, and in fact there is a continuity in the residential areas of Llanfarian and of the Penparcau Town Ward of Aberystwyth.

Llanrhystud, on the other hand, is an independent Post Town (note its correct postal address is not and has never been Aberystwyth), which lies ten miles south of Aberystwyth/Penparcau along the A487. Its links are equally with Llansantffraed and Aberaeron to the south as much as with Aberystwyth to the north.

The principal residential areas within these two Communities, and the locations of the Community Halls where the current Community Councils meet, are at opposite end of the Communities from where their borders happen to meet. Llanfarian Community Hall is in the northern part of Llanfarian Community. Llanrhystud Community Hall is in the southern part of Llanrhystud Community. Both halls are well used for a variety of community events, and compelling elected community councillors from both these communities to meet in one or other of these halls, some eight miles apart, would be definitely injurious to the proper good management of these two very different areas and not in the business of effective local government.

Llanfarian and Llanrhystud Communities each have over 800 electors at present, and each is estimated to still have at least this number by 2028, so merger cannot be justified on grounds of size (you have proposed creating a Community Council of Blaenrheidol and Pontarfynbach which would have only 754 electors). I would argue that each of these communities could well continue to function as a separate community on its own (albeit perhaps with a slightly reduced number of councillors), as indeed they have done so even since their original formation half a century ago.

However, you might equally consider an alternative proposal, which would have the merit of coinciding with your own proposals for the new arrangement of County Council wards. Llanfarian County Ward, Llanrhystud County Ward (which joins Llanrhystud and Llangwryfon Communities), Llangeitho County Ward and Lledrod County Ward are existing recognised electoral units within the County. Your own proposals retain the first two for the new County Ward structure, and amalgamate parts of the other two. I would recommend to you that this well-established arrangement should not be altered and should be used for the new community councils, with Llangwryfon being amalgamated with Llanrhystud (a well-established coupling!) and the new Llangeitho Community consisting of just the present Llangeitho and Lledrod Communities. Each of these three resulting communities (Llanfarian, Llanrhystud/Llangwryfon and Llangeitho/Lledrod) would have over 1,200 electors and a long-established pattern of working together, with a good correspondence for County Council representation.

I commend this proposal to you. I should add that Llanrhystud Community Council share my strong objections to your nonsensical proposal to merge Llanfarian and Llanrhystud, and I understand that they would be happy with my revised proposal.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Llanrhystud, Ceredigion, [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

Ceredigion 070 – Cllr Eirwen James – Llanddewi Breifi Community Council

Sent from my iPhone

May 11th 2024.

Dear Sir/Madam,

As Community Councillor of Llanddewi Breifi parish I strongly object to the proposed boundary change for our parish.

Whittling down our number of councillors from 10 to 4 removes the focus of local decision making, moving the governing powers of the community further afield to be made by individuals outside the area of benefit. Such artificial boundary line drawing lessens democratic grass root growth and distances the level of accountability.

Our Community Councillors work on a voluntary basis and do not accept any financial gain. We act as Sole Trustees of our Village Hall, Community Centre and Playing Fields and are in charge of the Parish Cemetery. Our unqualified Audit and nomination for Cynnal y Cardi Awards are proof of our efficiency. Extending our parish borders to include areas drawn naturally to the Lampeter hub draws us away from our natural affiliation with services in Tregaron.

Llanddewi Breifi Parish has been successful in acquiring a Leader Grant, two Lottery Grants and is currently involved in applications based on the needs and requests made by associations within our community. Being a team of four with dwindled precept would weaken the team spirit and impact negatively on our community. Change for the sake of change is not a plausible approach and will be to the detriment of community engagement.

Yours faithfully,

Cllr Eirwen James,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 072 – [REDACTED] – Llanddewi Brefi

Dear sirs

I wish to formally objected to the boundary changes for llandewi brefi . The changes will mean a reduction in councillors and democratic representation of my community on matters that have an important impact on my community.

At the moment we are well represented through our community council on land use planning matters at both the local and national level through their representative role in the planning framework in respect of new applications and in the allocation of funding through section 106 and cil monies. We will no longer have informed representation due to the merger of community councils into super constituencies and the views of the local communities will be reduced.

We will no longer have local meetings within our communities and for those of us who face in transport poverty with the cut back on public transport, we will no longer have the opportunity to attend local meetings to make our voice heard or hold councillors to account.

We also live in a mobile “not spot” so cannot access these services and join meetings online , how are we as a community able then to make representations and hold our councillors to account in rural areas .

How can the diversity of opinion in our communities be represented by fewer councillors? How will the reduction in councillors fully represent our bilingual rural and urban communities .

The merger of community councils may mean that the assets they individual hold may be disposed - like village halls or hubs , how will they be run how will they be disposed.

How will community assets be run - playgrounds halls lighting etc - we do not want these shut down by super constituencies because they cannot manage the assets .

What additional resources will be made available to the new constituencies to run much facilities and engage with the communities on these much larger foot prints - they will need additional resources not less.

Please keep the current boundaries so that my communities and I are fairly represented and able to engage meaningfully in the local democratic governance for the benefit of my community [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Llanddewi Brefi

Yours
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone



CYNGOR TREF LLANBEDR PONT STEFFAN
LAMPETER TOWN COUNCIL

May, 2024

Dear Local Democracy and Boundaries Commission for Wales,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Town Council and the electors and residents of the town of Llanbed/Lampeter to express our grave concerns regarding the recommendation that the number of Councillors on the Town Council be reduced from the current 15 to 7!

The recommendation was discussed at the Town Council's monthly meeting on 25th April and we understand that the consultation on the recommendations closes on 13th May. The Town Council opposes the recommendation which would reduce the number of Councillors to 7 for the following reasons:

1. The Town Council requires a minimum number of Councillors to have the ability and resources to undertake the fully implement their current duties. Reducing the number to 7 would make it impossible for the Town Council to undertake their duties and responsibilities. There is no reference in the consultation that a review would be carried out of the Town Council's terms of reference should the number be reduced to 7. That must happen because it would be impossible for the Town Council to implement its current terms of reference and responsibilities with only 7 Councillors!
2. The Town Council has a number of elected sub-committees in order to carry out their current duties in full. The sub-committees in alphabetical order are Administration, Caru Llanbed, Environment, Finance, Footpaths, Parks and Flowers, Planning and the Welsh Language. A minimum number of Councillors are required to be members of a sub-committee to enable the sub-committees to operate effectively with a Chair and Secretary as in the case of Caru Llanbed due to the workload of that sub-committee. Should the number of Councillors be reduced to 7, the Town Council would need to be restructured following a review of the terms of reference because it would be impossible to maintain 8 sub-committees with only 7 Councillors.
3. Being a Councillor on the Town Council is voluntary work, and those individuals give kindly and generously of their talents and time to maintain, develop and improve the town of Llanbed/Lampeter. Should the number of Councillors be reduced to 7, it would significantly increase the workload on the 7 compared to the current 15 Councillors. It may result that when the Local Government Elections are held every 5 years (the next is in 2027), not enough applications for nomination would be received to fill the 7 seats because being a Councillor would not appeal with so much voluntary work to be undertaken by 7 compared to the current 15.
4. It is recognised that the number of Councillors on the Town Council is currently 11 and that the Town Council is succeeding remarkably in continuing to fully undertake and implement their current duties. It shows how fortunate Llanbed/Lampeter are in their current Councillors who are prepared to contribute so much more to ensure that the town of Llanbed/Lampeter is not at a disadvantage from operating with 11 rather than 15 Councillors. Should the pressure of work increase further on them due to the Town Council being reduced to 7, some may decide not to continue as Town Councillors. The Town Council and the town would be without the current team of active, energetic, dedicated and experienced Councillors - the Town Council and the town would be so much weaker and disadvantaged.

5. The Town Council and the town are extremely fortunate to have such an active, dedicated and capable Town Clerk in [REDACTED]. Should the number of Councillors be reduced to 7 but the current terms of reference and the workload remain unchanged, the Town Council would have no choice but to increase the workload and therefore the hours of the Town Clerk as there would not be enough Councillors to cope with the additional workload. Perhaps the current Town Clerk may decide not to accept the extra workload and could resign. Should [REDACTED] resign, it would be a tremendous loss to the Town Council and the town of Llanbedd/Lampeter. Should she accept and the Town Council were to increase her working hours, it would result in additional costs for the Town Council. The Town Council would not be able to afford that without significantly increasing the annual precept and that would be unpopular with the electorate of Llanbedd/Lampeter. The Town Council's current income does not cover their expenditure and the Town Council therefore uses its reserves to cover the shortfall. The Town Council's reserves are being reduced by around £11,000 a year at present and on that basis all of the reserves will have been spent in 3-4 years and that without incurring any additional costs.

6. Ceredigion County Council are currently reviewing a number of its non-statutory services. They are keen that Town and Community Councils across Ceredigion take responsibility for certain services and their operating costs. They include public toilets, street cleaning and park maintenance such as grass cutting. The Town Council are currently discussing with Ceredigion which services they would consider and afford to take care of from Ceredigion. Should the number of Councillors be reduced to 7, the Town Council would not be able to consider this matter any further. It would not have enough Councillors to undertake any additional work and responsibilities not to mention being able to continue to carry out its current work and responsibilities.

7. Llanbedd/Lampeter is a very Welsh and Welsh-speaking town and that is reflected on the Town Council because all but two Councillors are Welsh-speaking with one other learning Welsh. Should the number of Councillors be reduced from the current 15 to the recommended 7, it may have a negative impact on the use of the Welsh language within the Town Council and at our meetings. Should there be fewer Councillors it could mean fewer Councillors who can understand and speak Welsh on the Town Council depending on whether or not they would be elected. Using and promoting the Welsh language is very important to the Town Council and we hope it contributes towards the Welsh Government's target of reaching a million Welsh speakers in Wales by 2050.

We implore you to reconsider the current recommendation and that you do not recommend reducing the number of Llanbedd/Lampeter Town Council Councillors from 15 to 7. It is important that the final decision does not weaken or make the Town Council an ineffective elected body. We would welcome the opportunity to further discuss the recommendation with you and what other options can be considered for Llanbedd/Lampeter Town Council. The email address of the Clerk of the Town Council, [REDACTED] is clerc@lampeter-tc.org.uk to contact us to discuss this further and to arrange a meeting should you so wish. Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,

Rhys Bebb Jones

Y Cyngorydd / Councillor Rhys Bebb Jones
Cyngor Tref Llanbedd Pont Steffan / Lampeter Town Council

Ceredigion 074 – [REDACTED] – Llanddewi Brefi

Dear sir / madam. I wish to object about the boundary changes proposed by yourselves.

We live in a rural community, each community is different to the next.

In Llanddewi brefi we have a great community council who work hard for the [community.by](#) merging we will have less of a say in our community. We have a football club youth club young farmers and women's institute.we will lose all control of this and our community if this proposed merger happens.

Please tell whoever has this idea for the changes to leave rural communities alone.Townies can't ruin rural communities. [REDACTED]

--

Sent from [Tohsoft.Mail](#) for mobile

Ceredigion 075 – [REDACTED] – Llanfair Clydogau

Dear Sir

I live in Llanfair Clydogau near the Llanddewi Brefi boundary and am concerned the proposed changes will impact negatively on our and other communities.

I see no benefit and wish to oppose the boundary changes.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Llanfair Clydogau

Lampeter

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 076 – [REDACTED] – Llanddewi Brefi

Dear Boundary Commission Committee

Thank you for this opportunity to give my feedback about the proposed changes.

I live in Llanddewi Brefi and benefit from the wide ranging services provided as part of this Community, chiefly thanks to the unceasing hard work of our team of Community Councillors. As many of the local Councils have confirmed as part of this consultation, I agree that the current Community boundary reflects the identities and interests of our community and that the area of Llanddewi Brefi provides effective and convenient local government as it stands.

So, to my mind and understanding it seems pointless to make any changes to the existing Community Council area. I have spoken to other members of the local community and we are all very concerned about the potential reduced number of Community Councillors working on our behalf if the proposed changes were to be applied, with the associated cuts to funding to maintain our Community services and potential loss of Community amenities. We are currently a thriving and growing Community, with contributions and benefits to many members of the local population, many of whom are volunteers and regularly devote hours of their time every week to community endeavours and projects.

I hope that my one voice will be added to the many others who have written to you to show our real concerns for potentially damaging administrative changes that may be made with lack of forethought about the far reaching and damaging consequences to our communities.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Llanddewi Brefi, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Bwlchllan

Lampeter

[REDACTED]
5/5/2024

Re.: Boundary Changes

I write to express my opposition to the submitted draft plan. I have been a Community Councillor representing Nantcwnlle for many years and I cannot any sense in merging Nantcwnlle, Cilcennin and Ciliau Aeron. I initially opposed and disagreed with the original necessity to make changes, because in the middle of the countryside where very few people live, proportionally more councillors are needed than in towns and cities. This plan has clearly been drawn up in an office by someone who understands nothing about the communities in question. Why wouldn't representatives from the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales come out to talk to us as councillors before undertaking their work? The new Council will be huge and it will create a number of problems. In my opinion, such problems would include

- a) a drastic reduction in representation for parishioners in these areas
- b) a completely unnatural new parish in terms of natural local connections, and it will be very difficult to get people to stand as councillors. Over the years, we have succeeded in filling every seat on our Council due to natural connections in the area. Travel distances and increased time spent in committees will be very negative factors in terms of recruiting councillors.
- c) On paper, it may appear that these new councils will save money because fewer clerks are needed, but I believe that costs will increase because:
 - The new clerks will have an increased workload and will therefore need to be paid more
 - Many councillors will claim payment due to increased hours. In all my time as a councillor, no one has ever claimed any payment, but I'm certain that this will not continue with the new councils
 - All members of our current Council are bilingual, so there's no need to provide a translator, and translators are an expensive resource. I'm not certain that all councillors will be bilingual in the new councils, so a paid translator will be needed for all committees
- d) Should the new Council manage to recruit councillors, I fear that many of them may soon leave because other councillors won't be interested in problems affecting different areas.

If larger councils must be created, then I believe we must go back to the beginning and look at what works in different areas. Nantcwnlle parish was created from Nantcwnlle, Gartheli and Trefilan. To create new parishes that have a natural affinity and natural connections in the area, the best thing would be to divide the parish of Nantcwnlle and unite its wards with their neighbours. The

parishioners of Nantcwnlle have connections with Llangeitho and Tregaron. The parishioners of Trefilan are linked with Ystrad Aeron, and the parishioners of Gartheli are linked with Llangybi. We need to go back to the beginning and talk to parishioners who have their feet on the ground and who understand what is happening on the ground.

I very much hope that someone will listen to these positive comments, because if not, it will be a substantial nail in the coffin of local democracy

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

i. It's important for a community to include people who live within an area that's similar in character in terms of services and infrastructure etc. – i.e. rural, connected villages – and that they're connected in a similar manner – e.g. minor roads – and perhaps have the same types of industries etc. A community like Nantcwnlle no longer has a school nor a shop, just a single pub, and there are community centres in the area where people gather, so in many ways, that makes it a community 'on the fringes' – but that's what makes it important to maintain as a community, otherwise people will feel that they're even more marginalised as part of an expanded community – indeed, people wouldn't feel as though they belong to a community if that community included a large number of villages, some quite far from each other.

ii. In this review, other things should be taken into account when considering what a community is – for example, the geographical size of a community – not just its population. It's important that people within a community are fairly familiar with all parts of that community, and those who represent that community should certainly know the area and its people quite well – but this would be more difficult in an extended geographical area where there are no natural connections between areas within the community. Other factors to consider in relation to the nature of a community – linguistic factors, types of industries – our community is one of small businesses / farms / self-employed people etc.

iii. We don't feel strongly about any need to keep specific wards within the community of Nantcwnlle – i.e. it's possible to ensure good representation for people in the extended community of Nantcwnlle without dividing it further.

iv. Perhaps it would then be worth thinking about renaming the community to better reflect those areas of Penuwch, Bwlchllan, Llwynygroes and Talsarn (the River Aeron is some kind of connection, I'm sure)

[REDACTED]

Clerk, Nantcwnlle Community Council

To whom it concerns,

I object most strongly to the proposal to merge Ysguborycoed community council with those of Taliesin and Talybont for several reasons which include:

1. Our community council is very active in addressing our community's concerns, for example, campaigning for a pavement and a lower speed limit throughout our community as we suffer a 40 mile speed limit despite having no pavement. The council coordinates activities such as a recent protest march, the making of a video showing the danger of walking along the trunk road, media coverage on the BBC and S4C and the press.
2. Our council works with local organisations such as the Eglwysfach W.I. to organise and part fund special community events e.g. a barbeque to celebrate the king's coronation (Talybont had no such celebration as far as I am aware, our council has bought bunting suitable for all community events)
3. Our council liaises with the RSPB who manage the Ynyshir reserve
4. Our council. tackles problems like the rubbish dumped in the CADW carpark, the difficulties of access to Dyfi junction railway station by complaining to the relevant authorities .
5. Our council maintains the community notice boards and its website
6. Our council considers local planning applications
7. If our council is merged , it is proposed that we will be represented by ONE LONE councillor-how can one person deal with all the queries, complaints and other matters that currently keep a whole council busy.
8. The council will be dominated by representatives of Taliesin and Talybont, who doubtless bear us no ill will but will not know our problems (e.g. recycling and rubbish not being picked up, potholes in the lanes, flytipping, just as we don't know the locations of their problems . And those communities have both pavements and a 20 mile speed limit so our battle will not be to the forefront of their minds. Matters affecting our daily lives will be voted upon by people who do not live in our community. Only one voice means our concerns are likely to be overlooked.
9. I understand that the boundary commission's recommendations are a guide , not mandatory. I maintain that Ysguborycoed should be an exception because of the very large area it covers with a sparse population and also the distance that it is from Talybont. In addition our communities are very distinct and different from each other (e.g. Talybont is nearer to Aberystwyth ,whereas we are equidistant from Aberystwyth and Machynlleth; fewer people speak Welsh in Ysguborycoed). Each community should continue to look after their own interests. We already feel like a forgotten community on the edge of Ceredigion and this proposal will make things worse.
10. I think the boundary commission should be trying to address the lack of interest in participating in democratic processes, such as voting and I feel people in our community will feel they have even less say in decisions taken on their behalf if this merger goes ahead and will be less inclined to vote in any elections, local or national.

11. Our precept is very low at present, but I think it will go up if we have to pay for a bigger council - more tax for a much reduced service

■■■■■, ■■■■■, Ffwrnais, ■■■■■ resident since 1976

Ceredigion 080 – [REDACTED] - Llanddewi Brefi

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to state my concerns on the upcoming Community Boundary reviews for Llanddewi Brefi with Llanfair Clydogau/Cellan and Llangybi Firstly why change something that is working extremely well with ultimately cutting down the number of community councillors from 29 to 12 would be ludicrous and much less productive. Each group of councillors has personal experience on each of their areas and so know how best to assist the peoples needs in that area.

I indeed have first hand experience of this where a large acreage of land was sold with no access and as a group of us neighbours were receiving threats our local community council was on hand with help and knowledge of the area to assist and put it forward to the local council. This would have been so much more difficult if not impossible had there been less than half the number of community councillors and having to rely on out of area people with no personal knowledge.

Each of these 3 areas has their own village hall with local meetings and great community spirit taking care of their own areas and people, so to increase the size to such a massive area is both impractical and totally unnecessary.

There is absolutely no change necessary and in fact the suggested changes would cause pointless and severe damage with devastation to all communities involved.

Please respect the thoughts of all that live in these areas and not ideologies of some out of area group.

Respectfully yours

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Llanfair Clydogau/Llanddewi Brefi

Ceredigion 081 – Cllr Ellen ap Gwyn – Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council

Dear Paul Elliott,

I write as Chair of Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council, Ceredigion, in response to the Consultation on Community Boundaries in Ceredigion.

Please see my comments in the attached document.

Yours sincerely

Ellen ap Gwynn

Chair

Response to the consultation by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales on Community Councils in Ceredigion.

10/05/2024

I write as Chair of Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council, Ceredigion.

I was disappointed to read your recommendations, since the Community Council fits perfectly with one of the Commission's requirements, in that it serves a population of around 800. A point that was made in this Council's response to the initial consultation.

Tal-y-bont is the main village in this community. It has a school and a Cylch Meithrin, garage, shop, pharmacy, pub, chapel and Y Lolfa publishing company. Bontgoch is a smaller village 4.5 miles up a narrow valley to the east. There are also smaller clusters of homes in Staylittle and Pentre Bach to the west. This is an agricultural area with many farms up narrow roads.

The Council has a Clerk contracted to work 8 hours per week. After the resignation of the previous Clerk, it took some time to appoint a Clerk who could work bilingually in line with the wishes of the Councillors, since all Council meetings are held in Welsh.

Merging this community with the two communities to the north would not make sense. My experience of serving as a County Councillor for the 3 communities for 23 years has shown me clearly that the populations and needs of the 3 communities are completely different and require specific attention by local councillors who know their areas well.

Finding councillors for the 11 seats in Ceulanamaesmawr has never been a problem. The Council meets 10 times a year and apologies are presented only rarely.

Members are elected to serve on Sub-committees: The Cemetery, Financial, Cae Bach and Policy, on an annual basis. So we need this number of serving councillors.

Councillors do not accept any costs for their work, and they're prepared to do any necessary work voluntarily for the benefit of the community, thus saving costs for taxpayers.

As stated above, a Clerk is employed for 8 hours per week, and teamwork is necessary to fulfil the aims of the councillors to maintain and improve aspects of community life.

Here are some examples:

Organising Christmas trees and lights in the villages

Taking care of the village's main cemetery and the old Tabernacle and Nazareth cemeteries.

Reporting any defects involving the 6 community roads maintained by the County Council which connect with the A487 which is maintained by the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency.

Maintaining equipment and safety on 2 children's playgrounds, one in Tal-y-bont and one in Bontgoch, together with a playground on a social housing estate leased from the County Council. Organising activities to raise money to improve equipment and facilities for the playgrounds.

Maintaining public toilets in Tal-y-bont.

In charge of 6 defibrillators.

Maintaining Transport for Wales bus shelters.

Cutting grass and hedgerows in the community, including the playgrounds and cemeteries.

Supervising the network of public paths in the area.

Maintain close contact with Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water which has a water treatment works in Bontgoch and a sewage treatment plant and pumping station which cause constant problems in Tal-y-bont.

Under the new recommendations:

There would be a single Community Council in northern Ceredigion in charge of the population of a rural area covering 50 square miles from Ynyslas in the west to Nant-y-Moch Reservoir in the east and from Maesnewydd in the south to the border with Powys in the north.

With only 7 councillors, this would involve a huge workload which will lead to people losing all interest in becoming community councillors. Current members have stated that they would not be interested in serving under the new system.

This will undermine rather than strengthen local democracy.

In a rural area like this one, Ceulanamaesmawr community councillors have no interest in the needs of the communities of Llangynfelyn and Ysgubor-y-Coed, since there are many miles between the villages, and in my experience, the residents of Llangynfelyn and Ysgubor-y-Coed have no interest in the other communities either. They are already self-sustaining communities.

The fact that the Welsh Senedd has recently agreed to increase its number of members demonstrates how important it is to have the correct capacity to serve our communities.

I urge you to reconsider before we lose an active Community Council which is vital to the prosperity of this area.

Yours sincerely,

Ellen ap Gwynn

Chair, Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council

Ceredigion 082 – [REDACTED] - Ysgubor y Coed

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you in response to the draft proposals published on your website in relation to the Ceredigion Community Review, in particular the proposed merger of the community of Ysgubor y Coed with two other communities to form the Community of Ceulanamaesmawr.

The current community of Ysgubor y Coed is represented by seven community councillors who between them make up the ward's community council, where they consider the community's needs if not to the universal satisfaction of their electorate then at least to the greatest extent possible under the current arrangements. This includes the ability to make representations where required to both the county council and Welsh Government directly. Were the proposals to proceed as outlined in the Commission's report, the community's representation would be reduced to a solitary councillor who would have to represent Ysgubor y Coed as part of a larger entity also representing Llangynfelyn and Ceulanamaesmawr. The former would have two councillors whereas the latter would have four. Given the councillors of Ceulanamaesmawr would outnumber the combined councillors of the other two wards by four to three, it is highly unlikely that the needs of either Llangynfelyn or Ysgubor y Coed will be properly considered, much less actually addressed by the new community council. To put this in perspective, the requirements for a lower speed limit through the villages of Furnace and Eglwys Fach and a proper pavement through both villages have been raised with the county council and Welsh Government by the community council of Ysgubor y Coed on more than one occasion. While no action has been taken in relation to these matters by either the county council or Welsh Government (despite the latter's notable interest in speed limits elsewhere), the ability of Ysgubor y Coed's community council to represent the views of its constituent councillors, and by extension their electors, directly to both the aforementioned bodies does at least hold out the possibility that something useful may be done at some point to address the needs of the community in question. However, the reduction of the community's representation to a single councillor on a body where the majority of the members represent one other community will mean this already distant hope will be largely extinguished. This is not to say that the councillors representing the ward of Ceulanamaesmawr may be expected to act in an overly parochial, self-interested manner, but it is only reasonable to assume that they will, understandably enough, prioritise the needs of their own ward over the those of its lesser partners. One also assumes the electorate of Ysgubor y Coed will still be required to pay a precept to the new community, and may indeed have to pay more than they do now, but it does not seem likely that they will get much, if anything, in return.

In addition to the above points there are others to consider. The foreword of your draft proposals states *"In particular, the requirement to ensure that communities continue to reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government."* The definition of 'effective' and 'convenient' local government is not specified, but assuming this means effective and convenient from the point of view of local government, then one is bound to observe that since relatively little is currently done for the community of Ysgubor y Coed it is difficult to see how the current arrangements could be made any more 'convenient' from the perspective of the county council. Much the same could be said for 'effectiveness', since so few attempts are actually made (by

anyone) to actually effect anything. As for local identity, it should be noted that the nearest settlement of any use, namely Machynlleth, is far easier to access and is interacted with to a much greater extent than whatever limited amenities or services are available in either Ceulanamaesmawr or Llangynfelyn. Considering this point as well as the closer social, economic, cultural, linguistic, infrastructural, and topographic ties that Ysgubor y Coed enjoys with the Machynlleth area, it would be difficult to argue that the proposed arrangements “...reflect local identities...”. In fact, one could argue that if a merger must be undertaken, then a more intelligent arrangement would be to join Ysgubor a Coed with the community of Cadfarch on the Powys side of the county boundary.

Finally, it should be noted that Ceredigion council’s own Council Size Policy states “...the ratios stated above [that a community council area has no fewer than a total of 800 electors] are **not prescriptive** [bold type in original] to the review and are subject to consultation. The ratios in this policy will be used as a point of reference. Each area should be considered on its own merits having regard to population, geography, and the pattern of communities.” It is unclear why the council settled upon the stated ratio, and no doubt the Boundary Commission did not consider this question when drawing up its proposals. However, it should be noted that in a county as sparsely populated as Ceredigion, the figure of 800 electors per community does seem rather high. This is particularly true of Ysgubor y Coed, whose smaller population now risks being removed even further from the attention of higher echelons of government by its incorporation into a body where its views are unlikely to command much consideration.

In view of my above remarks I would argue that the current community of Ysgubor y Coed should be left to function as a community in its own right. If the Commission insists on pressing ahead with the proposed mergers then either the boundaries of the new community should be redrawn so that the community of Ysgubor y Coed is partnered with entities of comparable size and nature, or the number of councillors allocated to Ysgubor y Coed be increased from the current one to at least two or three so that all wards of the new Community enjoy some kind of parity.

Yours faithfully



[REDACTED]
Lampeter
[REDACTED]

5/5/2024

Re.: Boundary Changes

I write to express my opposition to the submitted draft plan. I have been a Community Councillor representing Nantcwnlle for many years. I cannot see any sense in the plans to merge the parishes of Nantcwnlle, Cilcennin and Ciliau Aeron. I feel disappointed that representatives from the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales had not come out to talk to us as councillors before undertaking this work, in order to gather our opinions – since we're the people who understand the nature of our local areas and their people. The new Council will be huge, merging areas that have no connections in terms of communities. This will create problems such as:

- a) a completely unnatural new parish in terms of natural local connections, and it will be very difficult to get people to stand as councillors. Over the years, we have succeeded in filling every seat on our Council due to natural connections in the area. Travel distances and increased time spent in committees will be very negative factors in terms of recruiting councillors.
- b) People won't know local councillors as they do at the moment, and this will affect the efficiency of the community council
- c) On paper, it may appear that these new councils will save money because fewer clerks are needed, but I believe that costs will increase because:
 - The new clerks will have an increased workload and will therefore need to be paid more
 - Many councillors will claim payment due to increased hours. In all my time as a councillor, no one has ever claimed any payment, but I'm certain that this will not continue with the new councils
 - All members of our current Council are bilingual, so there's no need to provide a translator, and translators are an expensive resource. I'm not certain that all councillors will be bilingual in the new councils, so a paid translator will be needed for all committees
- d) Should the new Council manage to recruit councillors, I fear that many of them may soon leave because other councillors won't be interested in problems affecting different areas.

If larger councils must be created, then I believe we must go back to the beginning and look at what works in different areas. Nantcwnlle parish was created from Nantcwnlle, Gartheli and Trefilan. To create new parishes that have a natural affinity and natural connections in the area, we need to go back and talk to parishioners who have their feet on the ground and who understand what is happening on the ground. Decisions that affect local areas should not be made without discussion.

Thank you very much for your time, I hope that a two-way discussion can take place before these unnatural plans come to fruition.

Yours sincerely

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LLYSTROYDDIN MAESLLAN

LAMPETER CEREDIGION

12.05.2024

For The Attention of: Chief Executive

Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales

Dear Chief Executive

Re.: Consultation – Boundary Commission for Wales to reduce the number of Councillors on Lampeter Town Council from 15 to 7

I wish to oppose the proposal to reduce the current number of elected members on Lampeter Town Council from 15 to 7.

As a resident of Lampeter for over 30 years, I feel that if all 15 members were retained, the Town Council would be in a better position to represent the diverse community in which we live – with people from all backgrounds and of all ages involved with so many issues.

15 Councillors equate to 1 Councillor: 115 electors

7 Councillors equate to 1 Councillor: 247 electors

This reduction can only weaken democracy and the voice of the local people

Fifteen elected members possess a wide range of skills and enable the Town Council to provide a variety of services to the electorate. This helps to build community cohesion and combat isolation within an area that has recently experience a number of cuts.

A reduction of over 50% of the current representation within Lampeter Town Council suggests that matters of interest/expertise/workforce/local knowledge will be lost within the Community.

It seems impossible for 7 Town Councillors to represent this community adequately.

Regarding the Precept, the money raised by the Town Council from the County Council, I wonder whether it will be administered in a fair and transparent manner under the new arrangement?

I have concerns regarding the use of the Welsh language. Will the language have fair representation in the reviews? There will certainly be fewer councillors representing the Welsh Language.

It's possible that the Welsh language will not be represented at all under this Proposal, which would be another blow to the Welsh language and culture.

The Initial Consultation on this issue was inadequate and insufficiently informed.

I understand that merging/ changing the dynamics of wards within Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire Councils will be implemented voluntarily. Where is the consistency when arrangements within Ceredigion County Council are contrary to this?

This Proposal is a step back for local democracy, it has huge social, political and cultural implications, and it's a stealthy attempt to displace grassroots democracy. I find it difficult to establish the rationale behind such a Proposal, especially since the current Town Councillors are "volunteers".

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature.A small black rectangular redaction box covering contact information.

Ceredigion 085 – [REDACTED] - Llanddewi Brefi

Prynhawn da,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission Community Review. As a concerned resident, I have observed several issues that I believe should be taken into consideration.

Firstly, I would like to highlight that the local identities in our area are closely aligned with Tregaron, which is located approximately 3.3 miles away. Therefore, any changes to the boundaries may disrupt the sense of community and individual identities that currently exist.

Additionally, the Council Size Policy outlined in Chapter 2 does not provide a compelling justification for increasing the ratio of councillors to electors. The policy is merely a guide and should not be used prescriptively, especially when the existing boundaries and communities are functioning well within their current structures.

Furthermore, the Llanddewi Brefi Community Council, comprised of dedicated unpaid volunteers, serves our community remarkably. Reducing the number of councillors would not only undermine their efforts but also force councillors to travel greater distances to attend meetings split between wards, resulting in an increase in their carbon footprint. It would also make it difficult for members of the public to be able to attend meetings at a moment's notice, further eroding their democratic rights with respect to being able to bring up matters and participate in Council debates at the 'grass roots' level.

Moreover, the language used in the proposal, specifically the use of "should," suggests an obligation to accept the changes regardless of any opposition. This approach undermines the democratic process and fails to consider the concerns and voices of the electorate.

It is crucial to note that the unelected body responsible for these proposals lacks a comprehensive understanding of how our communities' function and interact. Their decisions, made from behind desks and based solely on population counts and maps, do not adequately represent the interests and needs of our residents. Furthermore, it does not address complex issues such as a decision would raise with regard to precept apportionment with respect to newly formed councils under the scenario- i.e. is it likely that one combined ward would be willing to see Council tax rates rise in their community to pay for services in a neighbouring village (not provided for within their own)? For my own community the consequences arising from this last point could lead to an increasingly bleak future for our community, in that it will most definitely threaten the viability of the Village Hall and Recreation grounds of which the Council is presently sole trustee; having lost our post office, school and village shop within the last decade, I believe this would signal a death knell for community cohesion, well being and prosperity and therefore regard these decisions to be very much at odds

with Ceredigion County Council's commitment to supporting and enabling the 7 goals of Future Wellbeing of Future Generations(Wales) Act 2015 being realised in communities across the county.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to reconsider the proposed changes outlined in the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission Community Review. Our community thrives under the current system, and any alterations may lead to a decline in the quality of representation and the overall well-being of Llanddewi Brefi.

Cofion Cynnes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Llanddewi Brefi

Tregaron

Ceredigion

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 086 – [REDACTED] (Clerk) – Llanddewi Brefi

Good Afternoon

Please find attached the response from Llanddewi Brefi Community Council to the Commission's Draft proposals in the Ceredigion Community Review 2023, together with scanned copies of letters and e-mails from 19 residents, sent for the Community Council to forward for your consideration.8446

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Clerc i'r Cyngor/Clerk

Cyngor Cymuned Llanddewi Brefi

Llanddewi Brefi Community Council

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Llanddewi Brefi Community Council

Response to Draft Proposals

May 2024

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Key considerations

In preparing its response to the draft proposals, Llanddewi Brefi Community Council's working group has had regard to the following considerations:

Council size policy

For Rural communities, Ceredigion County Council's policy is to:

- Ensure that a community ward has no fewer than 400 electors;
- Ensure that a community council area has no fewer than a total of 800 electors

However, the terms of reference state that the community review will focus on making boundary changes to ensure that community boundaries continue to reflect the identities and interests of the communities across the principal council area and that they are both effective and convenient. The figures identified in the Council size policy are not fixed or binding targets, and it is considered that the primary purpose of the review should be to identify those situations where changes in population, development, and infrastructure have materially affected local identity and lessened the effectiveness of local representation.

A comparison of elector numbers and map of neighbouring community council areas is included later in this report.

Community links

Under the current Local Development Plan, the settlement of Llanddewi Brefi is linked to the nearest town, and Rural Service Centre (RSC), of Tregaron. The Community council area is the largest in Ceredigion, spanning 18km, with an extensive rural and remote area linked to a substantial village community, identified as a 'sustainable linked settlement' in the draft replacement LDP.

In the 2018 electoral review, the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales proposed to remove our current electoral ward of Llangeitho and Llanddewi Brefi, and amalgamate Llanddewi Brefi and communities within the existing Llangybi ward to form one electoral ward. In Ceredigion County Council's draft response¹ to that review, the following points were noted, and are relevant to the current review:

- "The communities of Llangeitho and Llanddewi Brefi have strong links to the town of Tregaron and both communities are within the LDP service centre of Tregaron."
- "Llangybi and Llanddewi Brefi are not a natural fit as Llangybi's community links are with the town of Lampeter not Tregaron"
- "previous boundary reviews [] have tended to recognise the cohesion and identity of the existing arrangements"

In the LDBC's introduction to the current review, it was noted that "Whilst school catchment areas are an important community tie, unless we are told otherwise, school catchment areas do not generally depend on communities or community wards". However, in the case

¹ Report to Council 12/04/2018, appendix A; https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/A_Draft-response-to-Boundary-Commission-copy.pdf

of Llanddewi Brefi, the community boundaries are substantially aligned with the catchment area of the 3-16 school, Ysgol Henry Richard, formed by amalgamation of Tregaron primary and secondary schools, and closure of Llanddewi Brefi school in 2014.

Geographically, road links from the expansive rural area to the east and southeast pass through the village and connect to the B4343 running northeast/southwest along the Teifi Valley. The surrounding upland area to the east, therefore, has strong links with the village as the focus of the existing community council area.

Community Council - Organisation and responsibilities

Llanddewi Brefi Community Council consists of ten Councillor members and employs a part-time Clerk as Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer.

The Community Council is the **Burial Authority** with responsibility for Llanddewi Brefi Cemetery and employs a part-time Burial Clerk.

Since December 2020, the Council has been **Sole Trustee** of the Llanddewi Brefi Village Hall and Recreation Ground charity (nr 523862). The activities of the charity are distinct from the responsibilities of the Community Council, but all Councillors are members of the Committee of Management, which holds separate meetings and submits reports to ordinary Council meetings. The Committee runs a Small Society lottery (100 club) to raise funds for the charity.

The Council is also responsible for **trustee appointments** to the Fuel Allotments charity (nr 500142). Both the Village Hall, and Fuel Allotments charities operate for the benefit of the inhabitants of the parish of Llanddewi Brefi.

Llanddewi Brefi Community Council supports its village hall through the precept under powers in the Local Government Act 1972, and Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, and provides telephone and broadband services in addition to contributions towards maintenance, cleaning, and operating expenses. This support is vital to the viability of the hall and recreation ground, and it is presently justifiable to provide this support through the precept for the Community Council area.

The charity's objects relate to the parish of Llanddewi Brefi, and all the neighbouring community wards (Llanfair Clydogau, Cellan, Llangybi, and Llangeitho) have village halls that are run by management committees independent from their Community Councils, and without any financial support or provision of services.

Although it might be feasible to further amend the governing document of the charity to restrict the management committee to members of any future Llanddewi Brefi Ward, should the Community Council be combined with neighbouring areas as a result of this current review, it is doubtful that councillors of other wards within the same precept area could support the current level of funding, as it would increase the charge for electors in areas outside Llanddewi Brefi, and this would clearly threaten the sustainability of the charity.

A charity is also entitled to the impartial judgement of its trustees, directed solely towards achieving the best interests of the charity. At present, its objects are compatible with the powers and duties of a Community Council for the same area. **Should this situation change, the Charity Commission may not consider it appropriate for a Community Council covering an area outside of the charity's area of benefit to hold the title for its property, and reversion to an independent management committee of trustees could threaten its stability and sustainability.**

Community Council- Services

The Community Council uses its powers to provide the following services²:

- Provision and maintenance of the council and community website.
- Street lighting within the village.
- Public roadside seats.
- Christmas trees and festive lighting.
- Public notice and information boards.
- Maintenance of grass amenity areas within the village.
- Provision of a Burial ground.
- Maintenance and repair of the War Memorial.
- Public Access Defibrillator (<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/amenities/defibrillator/>)
- Youth Club

Of the total budget expenditure for 2023-2024, two thirds were allocated for provision of services, excluding administrative costs.

A comparison with neighbouring Community Council precepts, services and amenities is appended to this report.

Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD)

Llanddewi Brefi remains in the lowest 2% for access to services according to the WIMD; the county ward Llangeitho Lower-layer Super Output Area (LSOA)³ is ranked amongst the 2% most deprived areas in Wales in terms of access to services, according to the WIMD 2019, and Llanddewi Brefi was formerly within the Tregaron and Uplands Communities First area.

WIMD 2019 also notes the following deprivation statistics for Llangeitho LSOA:

In the 30 - 50% most deprived for OVERALL, ranked at 685 out of 1909 LSOA's. In addition, this is ranked 5 out of 46 LSOA's in the Ceredigion region.

In the 30 - 50% most deprived for income, ranked at 953 out of 1909 LSOA's. In addition, this is ranked 15 out of 46 LSOA's in the Ceredigion region.

In the 30 - 50% most deprived for education, ranked at 938 out of 1909 LSOA's. In addition, this is ranked 9 out of 46 LSOA's in the Ceredigion region.

² <https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/community-council/services/>

³ StatsWales WIMD 2019 <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Welsh-Index-of-Multiple-Deprivation/WIMD-2019/welshindexofmultipledeprivation2019-by-rank-decileandquintile-lowerlayersuperoutputarea>

In the 10% most deprived for housing, ranked at 114 out of 1909 LSOA's. In addition, this is 8 out of 46 LSOA's in the Ceredigion region.

Although Llanddewi Brefi was until recently served on regular key bus routes between Tregaron - Aberystwyth to the North and Lampeter to the South, the rising cost of living has a significant impact on the ability of residents to regularly travel to Aberystwyth or Lampeter and the village now has no bus service at all at weekends, further restricting access to facilities in the nearby towns of Tregaron and Lampeter.

The Community Council's proposed improvements to the community centre, together with the village hall's planned future expansion of outdoor sports equipment will have a significant impact in widening leisure use of the centre and playing fields and improving health and wellbeing through community activity.

In October 2023, supported through grants received by the Community Council as Sole trustee for the village hall, Llanddewi Brefi WI, Ceredigion Federation, set up a community café with the aim of creating a warm, friendly space accessible to all in response to the challenges of a rural community with poor access to facilities. Caffi Dewi has gone from strength to strength and has been fully supported and embraced by the community.

Development changes

There have been no recent developments that either cross or are situated at the limit of the current community boundaries, and no new or altered transport infrastructure projects have occurred since the last review or are planned in the next five years.

The process for the replacement LDP has been suspended, pending resolution of phosphate concerns in relation to the Afon Teifi SAC. Although Tregaron's sewage treatment plant may be upgraded in the next five years, Llanddewi Brefi currently has the only facility for phosphate stripping in Ceredigion. Any expansion that may occur once a new development plan is in place is likely to be limited to sites within or at the periphery of the village, at least 2km distance from the nearest community boundaries.

There are no residential allocations remaining within the settlement under the current development plan, and the balance of development between 'other locations' and the Rural Service Centre of Tregaron further restricts opportunity for development. There is therefore little potential for significant change in the next five years.

Current boundary arrangements

Community Review - Ceredigion 2023

Council Size Policy (Rural)									
		nr of electors							
Community ward		≥ 400							
Community Council area		≥ 800							
(a ratio of 85 electors/councillors is used in the LDRC variance calculations)									
Existing arrangement		Existing electorate				Projected (+5 years)			
Community Councils	Wards	Electors	Community Councillors	Electors per Councillor	Variance	Electors	Community Councillors	Electors per councillor	Variance
	Llanddewi Brefi	513	10	51	-40%	543	10	54	-36%
		513	10	51	-40%	543	10	54	-36%
	Cellan	321	5	64	-24%	307	5	61	-28%
	Llanfair Clydogau	220	5	44	-48%	210	5	42	-51%
		541	10	54	-36%	517	10	52	-39%
	Gwynfil	291	5	58	-32%	285	5	57	-33%
	Llanbadarn Odwyn	100	2	50	-41%	92	2	46	-46%
	Penuwch	287	5	57	-32%	257	5	51	-40%
		678	12	57	-34%	634	12	53	-38%
	Llangybi	325	6	54	-36%	341	6	57	-33%
	Silian	165	3	55	-35%	171	3	57	-33%
		490	9	54	-36%	512	9	57	-33%
	Gartheli	164	2	82	-4%	161	2	81	-5%
	Nantcwnlle	323	4	81	-5%	322	4	81	-5%
	Trefilan	179	3	60	-30%	184	3	61	-28%
		666	9	74	-13%	667	9	74	-13%
	Llanfair Clydogau	541	10	54	-36%	517	10	52	-39%
	Llangybi	490	9	54	-36%	512	9	57	-33%
Nantcwnlle	666	9	74	-13%	667	9	74	-13%	
Llangeitho	678	12	57	-34%	634	12	53	-38%	
Llanddewi Brefi	513	10	51	-40%	543	10	54	-36%	

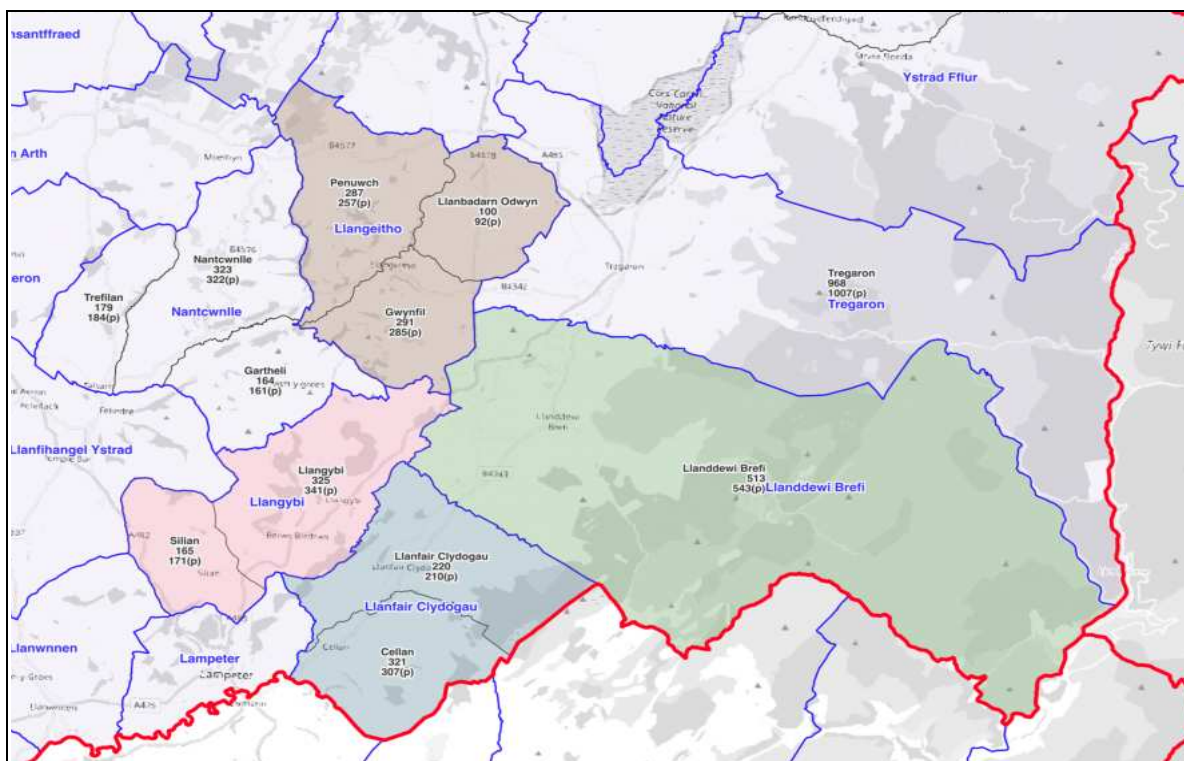


Fig: 1 Current boundary arrangements

The table and map above show the current arrangement of the three Community Councils bordering Llanddewi Brefi. The Commission have published the projected numbers of electors at the end a 5- year period, and these are noted (p) on the map.

All of these current council areas and wards fall short of the targets set by Ceredigion County Council. In the Pembrokeshire community review⁴, also taking place now, the adopted council size policy allows the 25 community councils with under 500 electors the 'option' to merge where they feel this would be more effective, or they are unable to fill vacancies. Where they do not wish to merge, their representation is being capped at 6 councillors.

Ceredigion only has 9 Community Councils under 500 electors but has adopted a much higher target of 800 electors per community in its approach to reorganization of smaller councils, without any option to remain as they are.

Anomalous boundaries

The following boundary anomalies have been identified, although these date from the earliest publication of OS maps:

- **Caer Llanio & Henblas/Yr Efail & Aelybryn –**
Rhattal, Ty Rhattal, Caer Llanio, and Henblas are all within Llanddewi Brefi, and Yr Efail & Aelybryn might logically form part of this group of dwellings.
The Commission's draft proposals divide the property belonging to Yr Efail between two communities, and the boundary should be amended to reflect the property title as shown below.

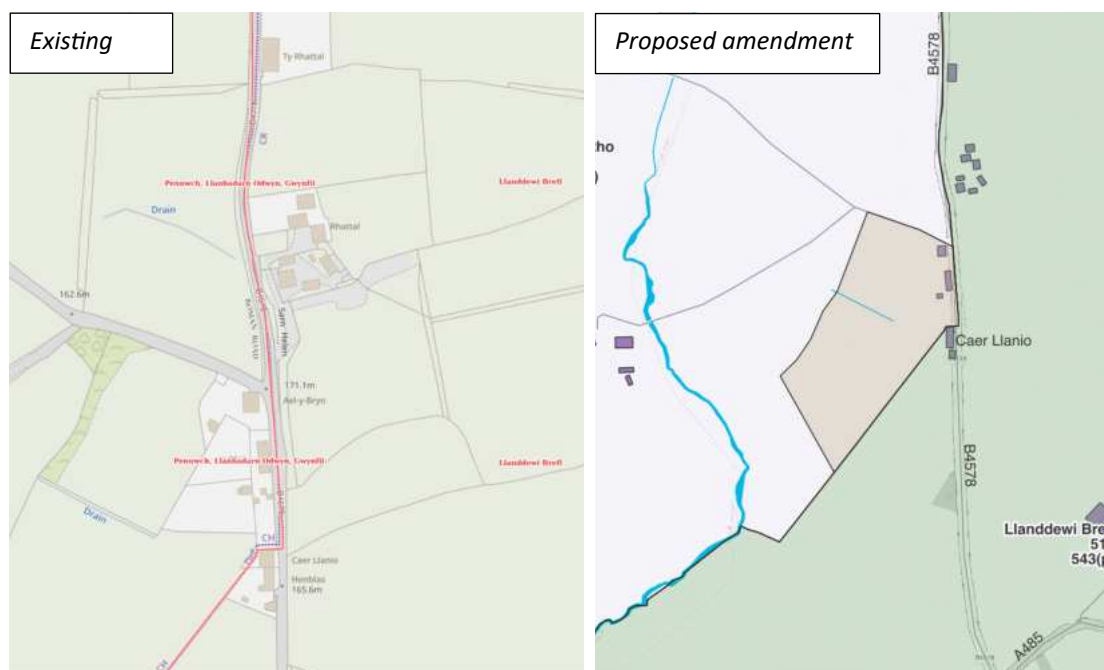


Fig: 2 Boundary alterations

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- **Waunfawr/ Tyndomen –**
The community boundary divides part of Waunfawr farmstead and might more appropriately follow the watercourse running west from the pond. However, the Community Council has no objection to the proposed boundary including Waunfawr within Llanddewi Brefi community.

⁴ <https://www.ldbc.gov.wales/reviews/10-23/pembrokeshire-community-review>

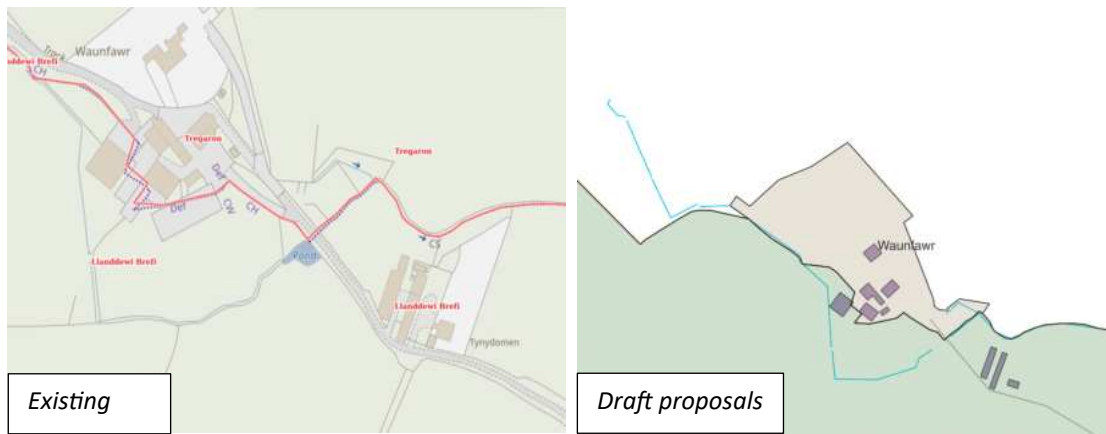


Fig: 3 Boundary alterations - Waunfawr

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The Commission's draft proposals also identified a boundary dividing part of the farmstead at Llys Hereg and the Community Council has no objection to the proposed change to include the whole of this property within Tregaron Community



Fig: 4 Boundary alterations - Llys Hereg

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Democratic effectiveness of current arrangements

Llanddewi Brefi community is not warded, and currently has 10 members following the by-election in July 2023.

An election was requested by community electors following the notice of casual vacancy, due to the resignation of two members in May 2023, and a contested poll was held on 20 July 2023 to fill these seats, with six candidates nominated. The by-election results demonstrated significant voter engagement with a total of 420 votes cast (inc. 3 rejected). Ballot box figures have not been published, but the distribution of votes indicates at least 41.3% turnout. The Community Council is aware that many reported only voting for one candidate, so ballot box turnout is likely to have been higher than the reported average for

local elections in Wales 2017 (41.8%)⁵, and similar to that of the last by-election in Lampeter Town in October 2022.

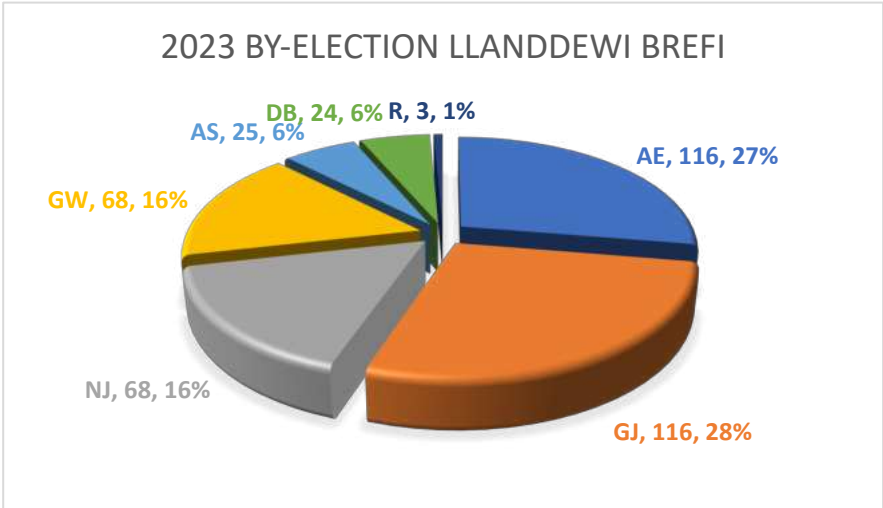


Fig: 5 By-Election results

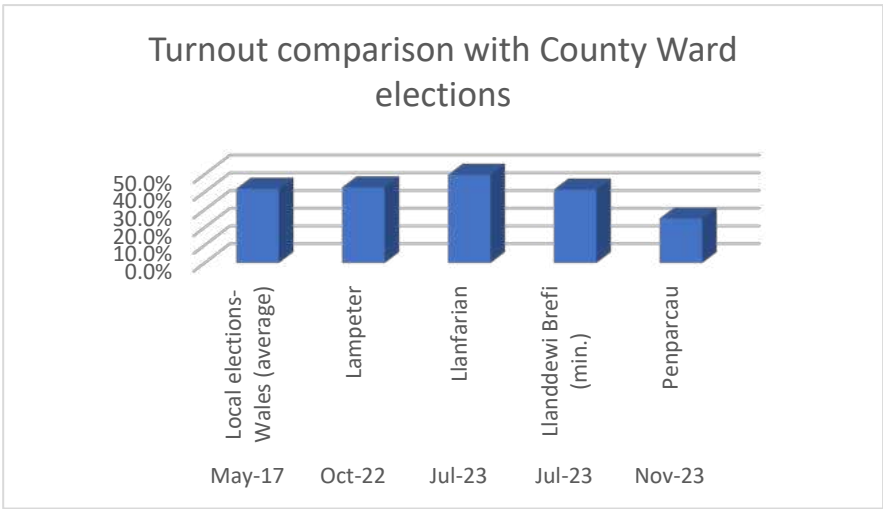


Fig: 6 By-Election turnout

Public participation

Public participation has increased substantially over the last two years since it has been noted as a regular item on the monthly agenda, with residents regularly attending and contributing to meetings from September 2022.

Engagement and Consultations

Llanddewi Brefi Community Council regularly consults residents on matters that affect them, and has carried out the following public consultations in recent years:

- Community Review 2023 - Public meeting presentation 16/04/2024
<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/ceredigion-community-review-2023/>
- Woodland creation schemes
Brynglas & Blaendoethie

⁵ <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/research-reports-and-data/our-reports-and-data-past-elections-and-referendums/results-and-turnout-may-2017-wales-local-elections>

<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/tilhill-forestry-proposed-woodland-creation-plan-at-blaendoethie/>

<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/tilhill-forestry-proposed-tree-planting-scheme-at-brynglas/>

- Wind energy
Waun Maenllwyd
<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/agenda/agenda-llanddewi-brefi-community-council-03-03-2022/>
- Changes to speed limits
<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/proposed-changes-to-speed-limits/>
- [Parking Restrictions Consultation 2018](https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/parking-restrictions-consultation-2018/)
<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/parking-restrictions-consultation-2018/>
- [CONSULTATION – Llanddewi Brefi Primary School](https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/consultation-llanddewi-brefi-primary-school/)
<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/consultation-llanddewi-brefi-primary-school/>
- [PUBLIC MEETING – Flood Damage](https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/public-meeting-flood-damage/)
<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/public-meeting-flood-damage/>
- [PUBLIC MEETING – 05/02/2019](https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/public-meeting-05022019/) (flood resilience)
<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/public-meeting-05022019/>
- [Review of Electoral Arrangements](https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/review-electoral-arrangements/)
<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/review-electoral-arrangements/>
- [CONSULTATION 27/02/2017](https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/consultation-27022017/) (Mobile phone mast)
<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/consultation-27022017/>
- Definitive Map reclassification order 1991 “Llanddewi Brefi” Roads used as Public Paths. <https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Case-Reference-516099-Llanddewi-Brefi-CC-copy.pdf> (2015)

Representation

Llanddewi Brefi was once one of the largest parishes in rural Wales and remains one of the largest and most rural in Ceredigion.

Approximately half of its electors live outside the village itself, and the geographical and spatial spread of boundaries necessitates a lower ratio of councillors to electors to ensure effective representation, and to provide the current level of services which rely on volunteer input in addition to financial support.

Audit 2022-2023

An ongoing review of governance and financial arrangements and policies has ensured compliance with new and updated legislation. The measures established over the last three years have resulted in an unqualified audit opinion from Audit Wales for the year ending March 2023, and the Community Council is working towards qualification for general powers of competence.

Reports

- [Annual report of the Council for the year 2022/23](#)
- [Annual report of the Council for the year 2021/22](#)
[Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report LIBCC 2022](#)

Community Council Projects

Llanddewi Brefi Community Council consistently aims to identify priorities and opportunities for the Community, with the following achievements over the last three years:

Cynnal Llanddewi 2022

This project was one of 23 throughout Ceredigion that were approved for a grant under the LEADER scheme.

The Grant Fund focused on the following priorities from the Cynnal y Cardi Local Development Strategy:

- strengthening community resilience activity with a focus on the role of Town and Community Councils in supporting and engaging with their communities
- developing opportunities for re-engaging people and reinvigorating community activity following COVID-19 and piloting innovative uses for community facilities

The project was shortlisted in three categories and was the winner of the 'Gweithio o'r Gwaelod Lan' – 'Firm Foundations' Award at Cynnal y Cardi and CAVO's celebratory event 2023. <https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/news/cynnal-llanddewi-brefi-10-2022/>

Jiwbilî Llanddewi 2022

An application for a National Lottery Community Fund Grant by the Hall management committee for community projects and activities during the Queen's Jubilee year was awarded £9,300. Activities were developed in collaboration with user groups, and a yearlong programme of events involved the whole community and regenerated interest in the village hall and recreation ground as a community hub and focal point for social interaction.

<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/jiwbili-llanddewi-brefi-jubilee/>
<https://caron.360.cymru/2024/gar-dd-gymunedol/>

Coroni Llanddewi 2023

An application for a National Lottery Community Fund Grant by the Hall management committee for community projects and activities during the King's Coronation year was awarded £9,950. Activities were developed in collaboration with user groups, and a yearlong programme of events involved the whole community and regenerate interest in the village hall and recreation ground as a community hub and focal point for social interaction.

To support community events, a new PA system was funded, together with a commemorative bench to be installed in the new community wildlife garden.

Other projects supported include 'Caffi Dewi', a community café set up by Llanddewi Brefi WI, Ceredigion Federation, with the aim of creating a warm, friendly space accessible to all.

Ceredigion Community Grant

The Community Council successfully applied for planning permission in 2022, and as Sole Trustee secured 50% grant funding (£5.2k) for replacement windows and doors at the Village Hall. The works were completed in May 2022.

<https://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/resident/news/2022/grants-available-to-communities-and-associations/>

War Memorials Trust Grants Scheme

Llanddewi Brefi Cemetery War Memorial received a grant of £930 from War Memorials Trust Grants Scheme supported by the First World War Memorials Programme. Funding of

£4,333 was also awarded under Cadw's Grants for War Memorials Scheme.

<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/news/llanddewi-brefi-cemetery-war-memorial-receives-funding-boost-war-memorials-trust-grants-scheme/>

Cymru Football Foundation – Fit For Future Facilities Programme

The Community Council, on behalf of the Village Hall charity and Clwb Pêl-droed Sêr Dewi Football Club, has recently applied for funding to improve the changing rooms and provide storage for maintenance equipment.

The proposed improvements are expected to generate increased community use and will facilitate additional or enhanced sporting events, enabling participation by mixed gender groups and providing suitable gender-neutral facilities for officials for team sports.

Consideration of Draft Proposals

The draft proposals published by the commission on 19/03/2024 do not appear to take account of any of the representations in the initial consultation with regard to effectiveness and convenience.

Across Ceredigion, rural Council sizes of between 754 and 3246 electors are proposed, with an overall average size of 1396 and a median number of 1560.

Community Review - Ceredigion 2023

Draft proposals - LDBC 19/03/2024

Council Size Policy (Rural)									
		nr of electors							
Community ward		≥ 400							
Community Council area		≥ 800							
(a ratio of 85 electors/councillors is used in the LDBC variance calculations for rural councils)									
		Existing electorate				Projected (+5 years, exc. ward boundary changes)			
Community Councils	Wards	Electors	Community Councillors	Electors per Councillor	Variance (from existing average)	Electors	Community Councillors	Electors per councillor	Variance (from existing average)
Llanddewi Brefi Community Council (Rural)	Llanddewi Brefi	513	4	128	51%	543	4	136	60%
	inc. Silian	490	4	123	44%	512	4	128	51%
	inc. Cellan	541	4	135	59%	517	4	129	52%
		1544	12	129	51%	1572	12	131	54%
Llangeitho Community Council (Rural)	Llangeitho	678	4	170	99%	634	4	159	86%
	inc. Blaenpennal	583	3	194	129%	554	3	185	117%
	Llangwryfon	459	2	230	170%	467	2	234	175%
		1720	9	191	125%	1655	9	184	116%

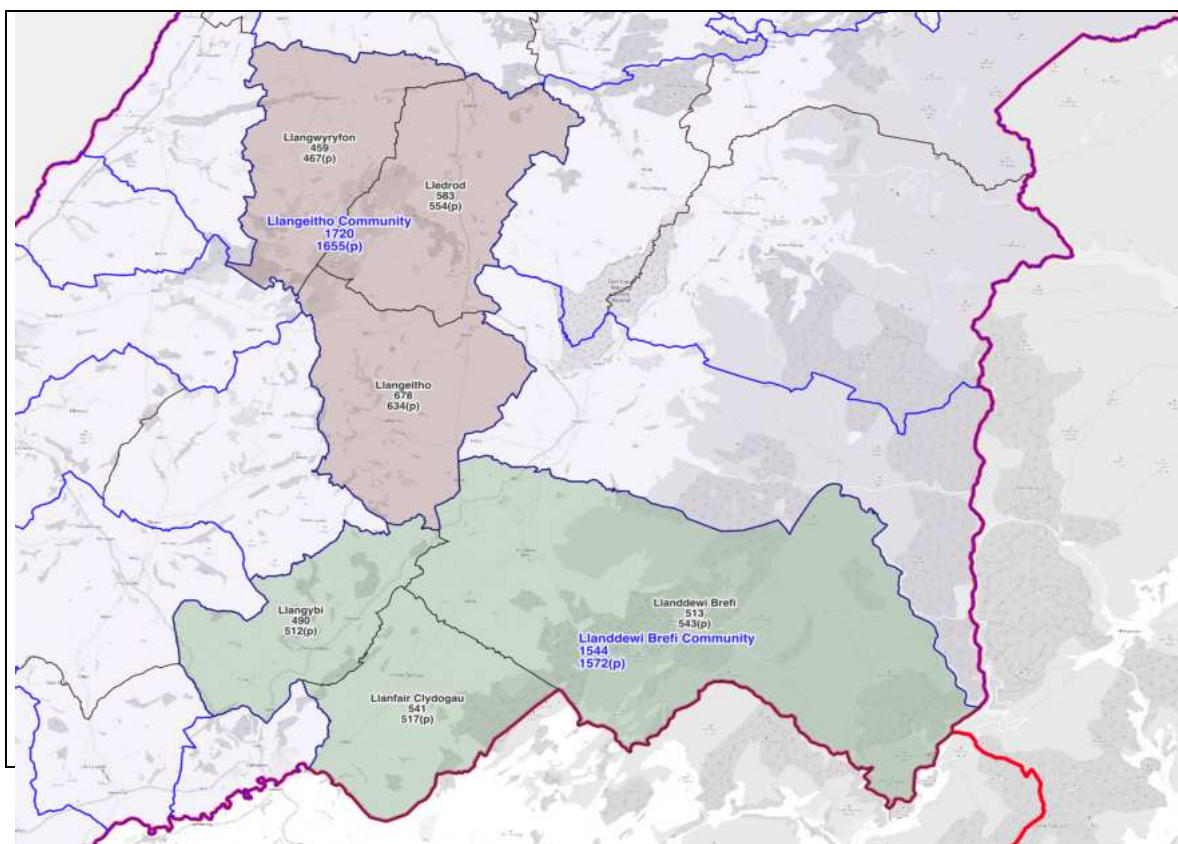


Fig: 7 Draft proposals - LDBC

The proposed council area for Llanddewi Brefi community crosses two county electoral wards, and combines areas linked to different urban centres (Lampeter and Tregaron) in the Local development plan.

The six existing communities highlighted in the map above have distinct identities and characters, and there is significant variance in the services and resulting council budgets between Llanddewi Brefi and its neighbouring communities.

Table 1: Precept comparison – Draft Proposals

2023/24				
Precept comparison – Draft Proposals				
Community Councils	Council Tax Base 2023/24	Precept	Band D Council tax (community element)	Variance
Existing arrangement				
LLANDDEWI BREFI	308.09	£9,500	£30.84	
LLANGYBI	283.5	£4,000	£14.11	
LLANFAIR CLYDOGAU	308.76	£3,500	£11.34	
Draft Proposals				
LLANDDEWI BREFI	900.35	£17,000	£18.88	
Precept by ward *				
LLANDDEWI BREFI	308.09	£5,817		(£3,683)
LLANGYBI (+Silian)	283.5	£5,353		£1,353
LLANFAIR CLYDOGAU (+Cellan)	308.76	£5,830		£2,330

**The precept collected from smaller villages will be available to each community ward (Council Size Policy).*

According to the Ceredigion Council size policy, the precept from smaller villages would be available to each community ward. However, the charge for each dwelling is calculated for the whole community council area and divided by the number of 'Band D' equivalent dwellings. **There would not be a different precept for each ward.**

The table above shows how the total precept income for the new council area could be divided between wards, according to the number of 'Band D' equivalent dwellings. Although the new Council could, in theory, decide to spend the precept according to the needs of each area, this would mean two wards out of three paying more than twice as much without receiving any additional services.

As these other two wards previously had similar budgets, and all three wards would have four councillors each under the draft proposals, it is likely that there would be pressure to limit spending in Llanddewi Brefi to reduce the impact on electors in other council wards, and Llanddewi Brefi ward councillors would not command a majority in budget decisions.

On the basis of the precept demands for 2023/24, this would equate to a **budget cut of £3,683 for Llanddewi Brefi ward** in order to equalise spending in each ward, and result in substantial cuts to discretionary services.

Consideration of Alternative arrangements

Llanddewi Brefi Community Council has held public meetings and consultations with residents and councillors from neighbouring areas, to raise awareness of the review and highlight the implications of the draft proposals.

A copy of the presentation shown at the meeting on 16/04/2024 can be accessed at <https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/ceredigion-community-review-2023/>.

Alternative proposals that align more closely with existing community ties and electoral wards have been discussed as shown in the following map and tables:

Community Review - Ceredigion 2023

Alternative proposals

Council Size Policy (Rural)									
		nr of electors							
Community ward		≥ 400							
Community Council area		≥ 800							
(a ratio of 85 electors/councillors is used in the LDBC variance calculations for rural councils)									
		Existing electorate				Projected (+5 years, exc. ward boundary changes)			
		Wards	Electors	Community Councillors	Variance (from existing average)	Electors	Community Councillors	Variance (from existing average)	
Community Councils									
Llanddewi Brefi Community Council (Rural)									
	Llanddewi Brefi	513	7	73	-14%	543	7	78	-9%
	inc. Llanbadarn Odwyn								
	Gwynfil	391	4	98	15%	377	4	94	11%
	Penuwch	287	3	96	13%	257	3	86	1%
		1191	14	85	0%	1177	14	84	-1%
Lledrod Community Council (Rural)									
	inc. Blaenpennal								
	Lledrod	583	6	97	14%	554	6	92	9%
	Llangwryfon	459	6	77	-10%	467	6	78	-8%
		1042	12	87	2%	1021	12	85	0%
Llangybi Community Council (Rural)									
	inc. Silian								
	Llangybi	490	6	82	-4%	512	6	85	0%
	inc. Cellan								
	Llanfair Clydogau	541	6	90	6%	517	6	86	1%
		1031	12	86	1%	1029	12	86	1%

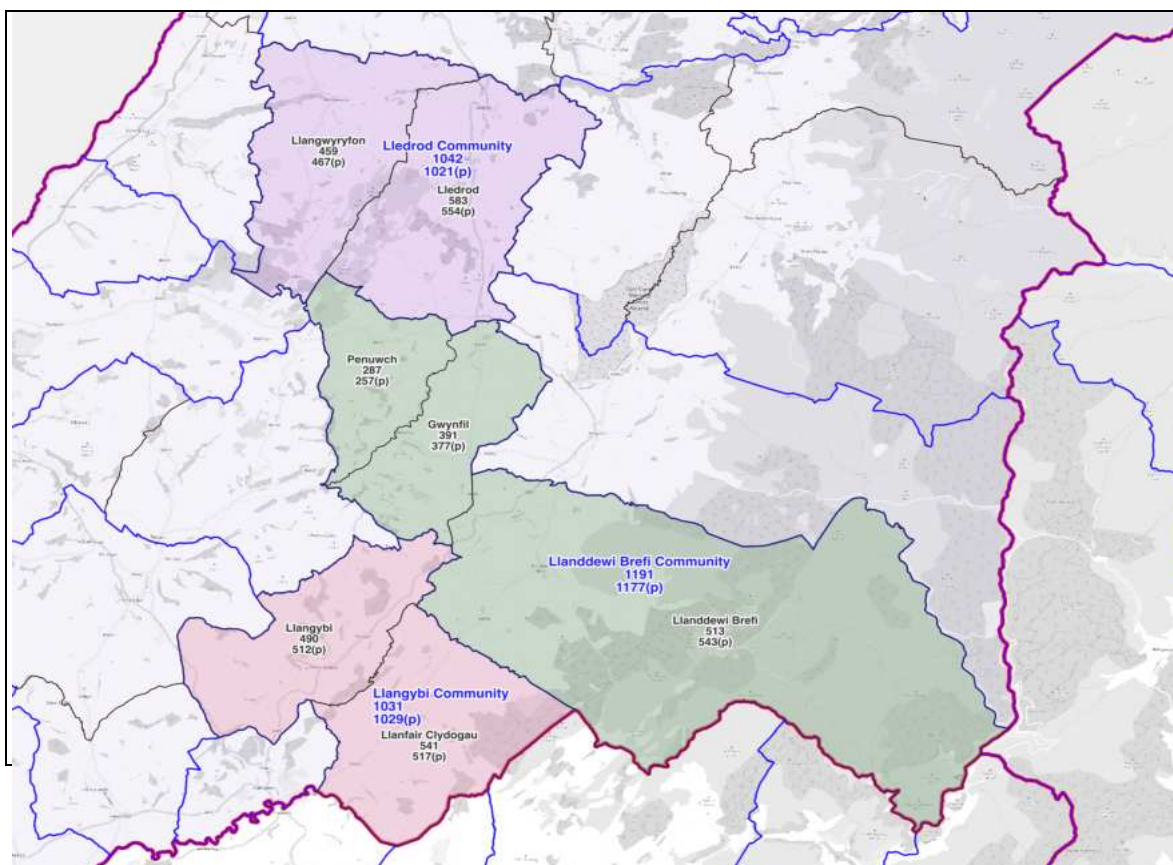


Fig: 8 Alternative proposals

Under these Alternative proposals, the following existing community councils would merge,

- Llanddewi Brefi Council with Llangeitho,
- Llangybi with Llanfair Clydogau, and
- Lledrod with Llangwryfon.

This arrangement would result in three communities of 1191, 1031, and 1042 electors, well within the Ceredigion council size policy and leaving all other draft proposals by the commission unaffected.

The suggested Llanddewi Brefi and Llangybi communities would also align substantially with their respective county electoral wards, and nearest service centres.

In this alternative, having regard to the council size policy, wards would change as follows:

- Gwynfil and Llanbadarn Odwyn would merge to form one ward of 391 electors, leaving the existing ward of Penuwch at 287. Although this falls short of the policy target by 28%, the council size policy states that 'evidence based' arguments are to be considered if proposing a ward of less than 400. Penuwch is one of two villages in the current Llangeitho community, and the ward is separated by natural boundary of the Afon Aeron.
- Silian and Llangybi would combine into a single ward of 490 electors,
- Cellan and Llanfair Clydogau would combine into a single ward of 541.
- Lledrod Isaf and Blaenpennal would combine into a single ward of 583, and Llangwryfon would remain as a ward of 459, as currently proposed.

No specific ratio of electors to councillors for rural councils has been set by the Council size policy. By allocating 7 councillors to the suggested Llanddewi brefi ward, 3 to the retained ward of Penuwch, and 4 to a combined ward of Gwynfil & Llanbadarn Odwyn, the alternative proposal meets the ratio of 85 electors per councillor, as initially used by the commission to assess variance, for the whole suggested community of Llanddewi Brefi & Llangeitho, with an equal number of councillors in each of the former community areas. This arrangement avoids any single ward or former community having a majority vote, and the chair would be able to exercise a casting vote in the event of tied decisions.

However, although this alternative meets the criteria set by the County Council's policy, Llanddewi Brefi and Llangeitho communities are still distinct in their identities and character. Significant discrepancies in terms of services and expenditure would remain (see appendix 1), and the potential impact on services to Llanddewi Brefi, although reduced, is still significant, as shown in the table below.

Table 2: Precept comparison – Alternative arrangements

2023/24				
Precept comparison – Alternative arrangements				
Community Councils	Council Tax Base 2023/24	Precept	Band D Council tax (community element)	Variance
Existing arrangement				
LLANDDEWI BREFI	308.09	£9,500	£30.84	
LLANGEITHO	371.44	£5,500	£14.81	

Alternative proposals LLANDDEWI BREFI	679.53	£15,000	£22.07	
Precept by ward * LLANDDEWI BREFI	308.09	£6,801		(£2,699)
LLANGEITHO (+Penuwch**)	371.44	£8,199		£2,699

**The precept collected from smaller villages will be available to each community ward (Council Size Policy).*

*** precept for the two proposed wards shown combined*

The only solution that does not result in a negative impact on the existing community of Llanddewi Brefi, is to retain the existing community boundary. Doing so would still permit the merger of Llangybi with Llanfair Clydogau, and Llangwryfon with Lledrod, and would have no implications beyond these areas.

Conclusion:

Llanddewi Brefi is currently the largest and most rural community in the area, with half its population being widely dispersed outside the village itself⁶; its Community Council is unique amongst its surrounding communities in terms of the services and local support it provides, including:

- Acting as **Sole trustee**, holding the title to the village hall and recreation ground, forming its management committee, and supporting its services and maintenance through the precept.
- As a **Burial authority**, running and maintaining cemetery services.
- Supporting local events and organisations through its **small grants** budget.
- Maintaining publicly accessible grass areas, closed churchyard, and footpaths.
- **Appointing trustees** and providing clerical services to the Fuel Allotments, a local charity that exclusively benefits the former parish area.
- Maintaining a public access defibrillator and **holding bequeathed funds** in reserves.
- Providing a **youth club**, coordinating volunteers, and acting as safeguarding lead.

The Community Council is proactive in obtaining grants for community events and improving facilities, amounting to £35k in the last 3 years and providing the hall with an interactive digital screen and hybrid meeting equipment.

In its role as hall management committee, the Council is responsible for organising the village carnival, and the hall hosts the annual agricultural and horticultural show, road

⁶<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/censusoutputareastimatesinwales> - Table SAPE23DT10j: Mid-2020 Population Estimates for Census Output Areas in Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex, Persons - Supporting Information

W00002863 - 309

W00002864 - 299

running race event, and provides the venue for Xmas and bonfire night activities, in addition to a community café.

Supporting community events and safeguarding the village hall and recreation ground has been extremely important in maintaining a community focus; over the last 15 years, the village has lost its primary school, post office, shop, and one of two pubs.

The level of support and services the Community Council provides is only possible due to the number of councillors able to volunteer, together with the funding provided through the precept, and is unique amongst its surrounding community areas.

Any proposed merger of councils that results in a Llanddewi Brefi ward with a minority vote in decisions threatens the provision of these services. In that situation, the total precept demand will be levied over the enlarged council area, and budget proposals will be unlikely to be approved if they increase the cost to electors in two other wards.

Even if the village hall charity reverts to an independent or corporate management structure, it is unlikely to be able to replace the funding and support it currently receives from the Community Council. **In that case, there is a strong possibility that it could be forced to dissolve, closing our only community hub and facilities, including the recently established community café/ warm space, playground, playing fields, football pitch and changing rooms.**

Although alternative proposals have been considered, in consultation with neighbouring communities, there is no solution that achieves the targets set by Ceredigion's Council size policy and does not involve a merger with a much lower precepting community with more electors and far fewer services or responsibilities.

Llanddewi Brefi Community Council considers that it represents effective and convenient local government, delivers quality services economically and efficiently, and gives residents a democratic voice in the decisions that affect them.

There have not been any recent significant changes in terms of population, development, and infrastructure that would justify a review of the Community Council area, and none are forecast. The community continues to have a strong and characteristic sense of identity distinct from its neighbouring communities, and services and representation would be diminished by any substantial changes in boundaries and councillor numbers.

"Consideration of proposals should focus on outcomes. A new structure is not an outcome, but merely a means to an end. The hurdle that any proposal should have to pass is whether it is, on balance, likely to lead to better public service outcomes and/or governance."⁷

With the inevitable impact of poorer services and representation, and less access to face-to-face meetings, any reorganisation of Llanddewi Brefi Community Council will result in far less effective and convenient local government, and we urge the commission to reconsider its proposals.

⁷ <https://www.publicfinance.co.uk/news/2018/03/what-consider-when-merging-councils1>

Appendix 1 – Community Comparisons

Community	Councillors	Electors		Precept ¹		Settlements linked to USC/RSC	Area (ha)	Services	Amenities		Burial authority
		Ex.	+ 5 years (P)	(2022-2023)	(2023-2024)				Village hall	Recreation ground	
Llanddewi Brefi	10	513	541	£8,500	£9,500	Tregaron	11431	- Community & Council website - Hall cleaner - Hall telephone & Broadband - Community grants - Street lighting - Youth 'drop-in' - Grass cutting - PA Defibrillator	Sole Trustee	Sole Trustee	Yes
Llangeitho	12	678	634	£5,500	£5,500	Tregaron	3831	- Council website - Grass cutting - Community grants	Independent	Not known	No
Llanfair Clydogau & Cellan	10	541	517	£3,500	£3,500	Lampeter	3232	- Council website - Grass cutting	Independent	N/A	No
Llangybi	9	490	512	£4,000	£4,000	Lampeter	2853	- Council website - PA Defibrillator - Community grants - Playground inspections	Independent	Independent	No
Nantcwnlle	9	666	667	£2,000	£2,200	Lampeter (Llwynygroes)/ Felinfach (Talsarn)	3962	Not known	Not known	Not known	No
Tregaron	11	968	1007	£24,000	£22,000	N/A	8642	- Council website - Street cleaner - Grass cutting - Community grants	Independent	Independent	No

¹ <https://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/resident/council-tax/budget/>

Appendix 2 – Council size policy comparisons

Pembrokeshire⁸	Ceredigion⁹
Urban	Urban
Communities with 2,000 registered electors or more are classified as urban for the purposes of this policy. Those communities are (from largest to smallest) Milford Haven, Haverfordwest, Pembroke Dock, Pembroke, Fishguard & Goodwick, Tenby, Neyland, and Narberth.	Towns identified as Urban Service Centres in the Local Development Plan, are Aberaeron, Aberystwyth, Cardigan, Lampeter, Llandysul and Tregaron.
The ratio of councillors to electors will be between 1:170 and 1:600;	Ensure that the ratio of councillors to electors is a minimum of 1:600.
The minimum number of councillors will be 13 and the maximum number 18;	Ensure that each town council area that is created is represented by a maximum of 21 councillors and a minimum of 7 councillors;
The number of councillors on an urban council is at least one more than the largest rural council.	
Rural	Rural
For community councils of less than 500 electors, expressions of interest in voluntary mergers will be sought.	Ensure that a community ward has no fewer than 400 electors;
In the event of a community council of under 500 electors not wishing to voluntarily merge, there will be 6 councillors.	Ensure that a community council area has no fewer than a total of 800 electors (i.e. the total of the communities wards within that town/community council area);
For community councils of over 500 electors the ratio of councillors to electors will be between 1:80 and 1:160, with the aim to be as close as possible to 1:120;	
The minimum number of councillors will be 6 and the maximum number 12;	Consider strong, evidence-based arguments to create a community ward that has fewer than 400 electors;
Wards within communities to be retained or created on a case by case basis.	Where possible, community wards are removed and councillor representation is based on the whole community council area; and that the precept collected from smaller villages will be available to each community ward.

⁸ <https://www.ldbc.gov.wales/reviews/10-23/pembrokeshire-community-review>

⁹ <https://www.ldbc.gov.wales/reviews/03-24/ceredigion-community-review-draft-proposals>



Arolwg Cymunedol Ceredigion 2023 Community Review

GAN GOMISIWN FFINIAU A DEMOCRATIAETH LLEOL I GYMRU

AR RAN CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION

BY LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

ON BEHALF OF CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Yr Arolwg	The Review
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Mae gan brif gynghorau ddyletswydd i fonitro ac adolygu eu ffiniau cymunedol bob 10-15 mlynedd i sicrhau eu bod yn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ parhau i adlewyrchu hunaniaeth leol a diddordebau cymunedau a ▶ yn effeithiol ac yn gyfleus ▶ Gall y rhesymau dros newid ffiniau gynnwys: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ newidiadau sylweddol yn y boblogaeth ▶ datblygiadau a seilwaith newydd sy'n croesi ffiniau presennol neu'n rhannu cymunedau ▶ Pwrpas yr adolygiad yw darparu cynrychiolaeth deg ac effeithiol ar draws cymunedau 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Principal councils have a duty to monitor and review their community boundaries every 10-15 years to ensure that they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ continue to reflect the local identities and interests of communities and ▶ are both effective and convenient ▶ Reasons for boundary change may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ significant changes in population ▶ new development and infrastructure that crosses existing boundaries or divides communities ▶ The purpose of the review is to provide fair and effective representation across communities

Background to review process

Ceredigion County Council has a duty under Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 to keep its communities under review every 10 years, and report its review to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales

The County Council has asked the Commission to undertake this Community Review on its behalf.

the terms of reference state that the community review will focus on making boundary changes to ensure that community boundaries continue to reflect the identities and interests of the communities across the principal council area and that they are both effective and convenient.

the primary purpose of the review should be to identify those situations where changes in population, development, and infrastructure have materially affected local identity and lessened the effectiveness of local representation.

Polisi Maint y Cyngor

Council size policy

Gwledig

- Sicrhau fod dim llai na 400 o etholwyr mewn ward gymunedol;
- Sicrhau fod dim llai na 800 o etholwyr mewn ardal cyngor cymuned (hynny yw, cyfanswm wardiau'r gymuned o fewn ardal y cyngor tref/cymuned);
- Ystyried dadleuon cryf, ar sail tystiolaeth, ar gyfer creu ward gymunedol sydd â llai na 400 o etholwyr;
- Lle bo'n bosib, cael gwared ar wardiau cymunedol a bod cynrychiolaeth y cynghorwyr yn seiliedig ar ardal gyfan y cyngor cymuned; a bod y praecept a gesglir o bentrefi llai ar gael i bob ward gymunedol.
- Nid yw'r ffigurau hyn yn dargedau sefydlog nac yn rhai rhwymol, ond cânt eu hystyried ochr yn ochr ag ystyriaethau perthnasol eraill.**

Rural

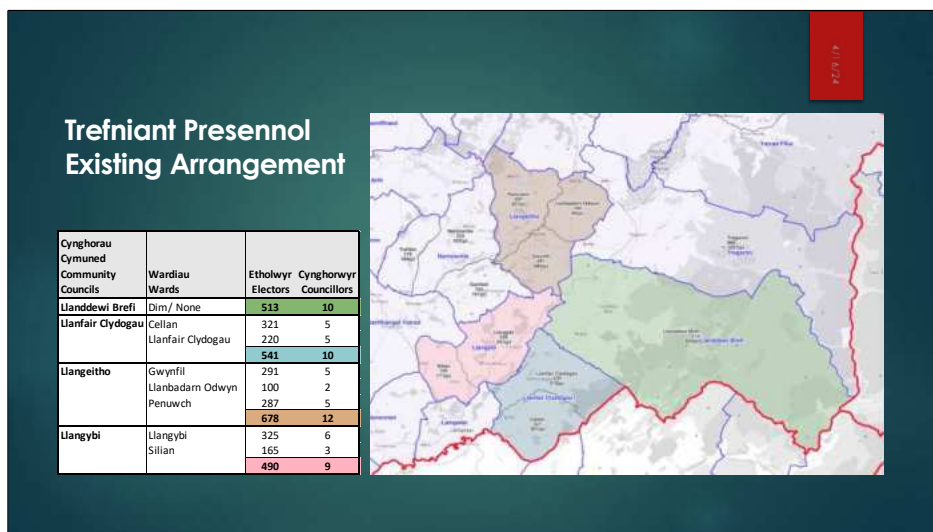
- Ensure that a community ward has no fewer than 400 electors;
- Ensure that a community council area has no fewer than a total of 800 electors (i.e. the total of the community's wards within that town/community council area);
- Consider strong, evidence-based arguments to create a community ward that has fewer than 400 electors;
- Where possible, community wards are removed, and councillor representation is based on the whole community council area; and that the precept collected from smaller villages will be available to each community ward.
- These figures are not fixed or binding targets, but will be taken into account alongside other relevant considerations**

The Council Size Policy was adopted by Ceredigion Council in April 2023:
For rural areas, community wards should have at least 400 electors, and Community councils at least 800.

Although there is a ratio of 1 councillor to 600 electors recommended for towns, no specific ratio has been set by the policy for rural councils, and 'evidence based' arguments will be considered if proposing a ward of less than 400.

However, in their initial tables the commission used a ratio of 1 to 85 to assess variance in representation, and we have used this figure in looking at alternative proposals.

The figures identified in the Council size policy are not fixed or binding targets, and the main focus should be to identify those situations where changes have occurred which make current arrangements less effective



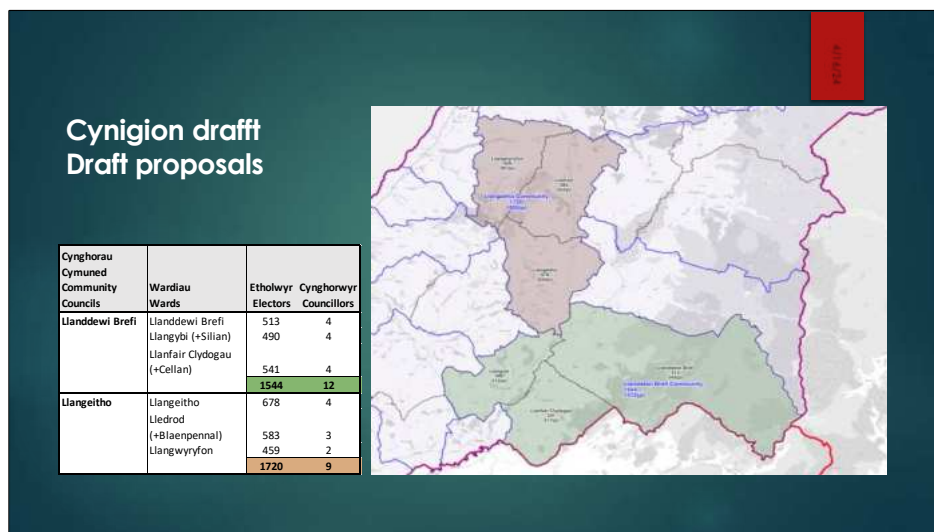
The table and map show the current arrangement of the three community councils bordering Llanddewi Brefi

The Commission have published the projected numbers of electors at the end a 5-year period, and these are noted (p) on the map

All of these current council areas and wards fall short of the targets set by Ceredigion.

In the Pembrokeshire review, also taking place now, the 25 councils with under 500 electors have been given the 'option' to merge where they feel this would be more effective, or they are struggling to fill vacancies. Where they do not wish to merge their representation is being capped at 6 councillors.

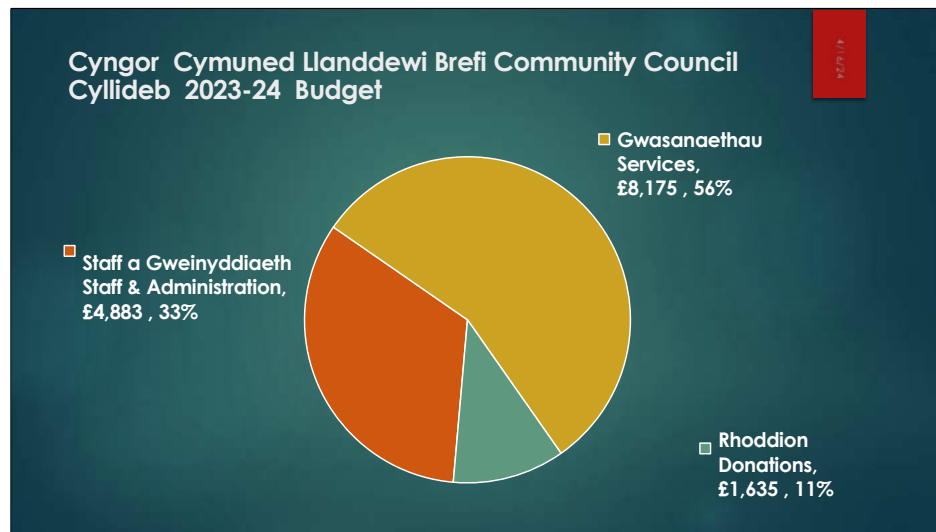
Ceredigion only has 9 community councils under 500 electors but has adopted a much higher target of 800 in its approach to reorganization of smaller councils, without any option to remain as they are.



The draft proposals from the LDBC on 19/03/2024 take no account of any of the representations in the initial consultation with regard to effectiveness and convenience.

Rural Council sizes of between 754 and 3246 are proposed, with an overall average size of 1396 electors and a middle (median) number of 1560 electors.

The proposed council area for Llanddewi Brefi crosses two county electoral wards, and combines areas linked to different urban centres in the Local development plan. These 6 existing communities have distinct identities and characters, and there is significant variance in the services and resulting council budgets between Llanddewi Brefi and its neighbouring communities.



Total budget expenditure 2023-2024 = £14,692

Total budget income = £12,383 (£9,500 precept, £1,496 recoverable VAT, £1,251

Cemetery grant, Sundry income £137)

2/3rds of the budget is allocated to services (this excludes burials and associated administrative expenses)

2023/24				
Cynghorau Cymuned Community Councils	Syftaen Treth y Cyngor Council Tax Base 2023/24	Praesept Precept	Band D Treth y Cyngor (elfen gymunedol) Band D Council tax (community element)	Amrywiad Variance
Trefniant presennol Existing arrangement				
LLANDDEWI BREFI	308.09	£9,500	£30.84	
LLANGYBI	283.5	£4,000	£14.11	
LLANFAIR CLYDGAU	308.76	£3,500	£11.34	
Cynigion Drafft Draft Proposals				
LLANDDEWI BREFI	900.35	£17,000	£18.88	
Praesept yn ôl ward arfaethedig* Precept by ward *				
LLANDDEWI BREFI	308.09	£5,817		(£3,683)
LLANGYBI	283.5	£5,353		£1,353
LLANFAIR CLYDGAU	308.76	£5,830		£2,330

*Y praesept a gesglir o bentrefi llai ar gael i bob ward gymunedol (Polisi Maint y Cyngor).
*The precept collected from smaller villages will be available to each community ward (Council Size Policy).

Cynigion draft -
Effaith Cyllideb
y Cyngor

Draft proposals -
Council Budget
Impact

4/16/24

According to the Ceredigion Council size policy, the precept from smaller villages would be available to each community ward.

However, the charge for each dwelling is calculated for the whole community council area and divided by the number of 'Band D' equivalent dwellings.

There would not be a different precept for each ward.

This example shows how the precept income could be divided between wards according to the number of 'Band D' equivalent dwellings.

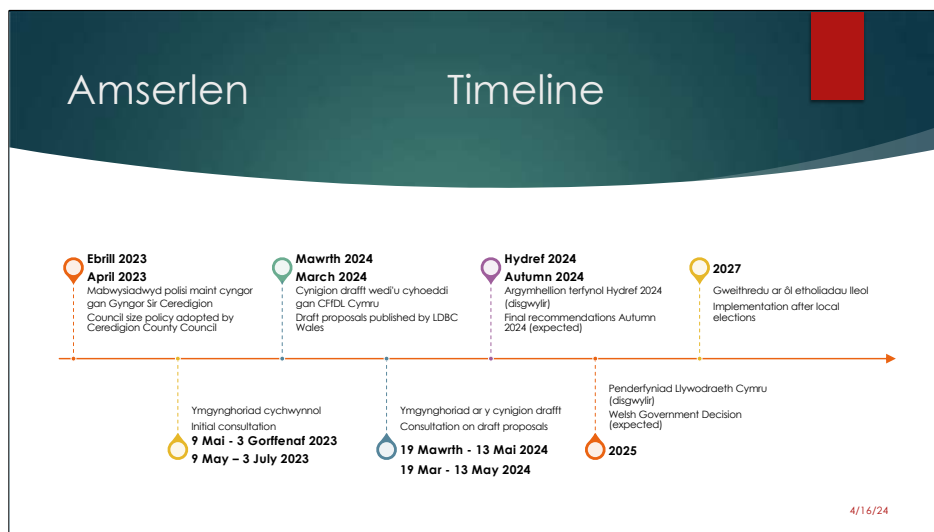
Although the new Council could in theory decide to spend the precept according to the needs of each area, this could mean two wards paying more than twice as much for no additional services.

As these other two wards previously had similar budgets, and all three wards would have 4 councillors each, it is likely that there would be pressure to limit spending in Llanddewi Brefi to reduce the impact on electors in other wards, and Llanddewi ward councillors would not have a majority in budget decisions.

Posibilrwydd colli gwasanaethau i'r gymuned	Potential loss of services to the community
<p>► Mae gwasanaethau dewisol y gellid eu colli i gyflawni foriadau cyllideb o £3.5-4k yn cynnwys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Ffôn neuadd a band eang ► Goleuadau stryd (trwy'r nos) ► Cefnogaeth clwb ieuenctid ► Goleuadau Nadolig a digwyddiadau ► Glanhau a chynnal a chadw neuaddau ► A.137 Rhoddion i ddigwyddiadau a sefydliadau lleol ► Torri gwair (Caeau chwarae a Mynwent) 	<p>► Discretionary services that could be lost to achieve budget cuts of £3.5-4k include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Hall phone and broadband ► Street lights (all night) ► Youth club support ► Xmas lights and events ► Hall cleaning and maintenance ► S.137 Donations to local events and organisations ► Grass cutting (Playing fields & Churchyard)

4/16/24

A substantial number of these services would need to be cut to achieve a budget cut of £3.5-4k, and equalize the spending between the proposed wards, and Llanddewi Brefi ward will have a minority vote in any budget decisions by the proposed community council.



Timetable

Following adoption of the Council size policy by Ceredigion County Council in April 2023

- Stage 1 – 8 Week Consultation Period – 9 May 2023 to 3 July 2023
- Stage 2 – Develop and publish Draft Proposals - 8 Week Consultation Period originally planned for Autumn 2023 started on 19th March 2024 and has been shortened to 6 weeks
- Stage 3 – Commission Formulates Final recommendations and submits to Welsh Government – originally planned for July 2024, now estimated to move into Autumn
- Stage 4 – After 6 weeks WG may make an Order (an opportunity to write to Welsh Government)
- Stage 5 – New arrangements come into force for local government election

Casgliad	Conclusion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Gallai cynigion drafft y Comisiwn arwain at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Llai o wasanaethau yn Llanddewi Brefi ► Cyfarfodydd yn llai hygyrch wyneb yn wyneb (efallai 1 o bob 4 yn Llanddewi Brefi os yn lleoliadau bob yn ail rhwng wardiau) ► Cynrychiolaeth salach ar gyfer etholwyr Llanddewi Brefi gan Gynghorwyr (o 10 i 4), a phleidlais leiafrifol ym mhenderfyniadau Cyngorau Cymuned sy'n effeithio ar y ward. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► The Commission's draft proposals could result in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Fewer services in Llanddewi Brefi ► Meetings being less accessible in person (possibly 1 in 4 in Llanddewi Brefi if alternating locations between wards) ► Poorer representation for Llanddewi Brefi electors by Councillors (from 10 to 4), and a minority vote in Community Council decisions affecting the ward.

In conclusion

Budget cuts will be necessary unless other proposed wards either significantly increase their spending on services, or effectively accept a doubling of their local precept to cover the cost of existing services in Llanddewi Brefi - An outcome that is neither likely, given the numbers of councillors in each ward, nor fair on the electors in the other two proposed wards

Currently, meetings in these other areas are held in Llanfair Clydogau, Cellan, and Llangybi. To ensure equal opportunity for residents across the new council area to access a face to face meeting would mean alternating between 4 locations, with 1 in 4 being held in the largest geographical ward area of Llanddewi Brefi.

In reducing the number of councillors across the county by more than half, from 540 to 260 (and in rural areas from 459 to 214) the proposals will result in poorer representation for residents, and less ability to carry out or facilitate voluntary services. In the case of Llanddewi Brefi Community Council, as Sole trustee for its village hall, the proposals present a substantial threat to the support and viability of this community resource.

Lleiswch eich barn ar eich Cymuned.

Dylid anfon pob sylw ar y cynigion drafft hyn at:

- Y Prif Weithredwr
Comisiwn Ffiniau a Democratiaeth Leol
Cymru Tŷ Hastings, Llys Fitzalan,
Caerdydd CF24 0BL

Neu drwy anfon neges e-bost at:

- ymaynchoriadau@ffiniau.cymru

erbyn 13 Mai 2024 fan pellaf.

Gallwch hefyd anfon eich ymatebion drwy Gyngor Cymuned Llanddewi Brefi cyn 10 Mai; Defnyddiwch y bocys yn y Ganolfan Gymunedol neu New Inn.

Neu anfonwch e-bost:

- clerc@llanddewibrefi.org

I gael rhagor o wybodaeth am yr arolwg a'r broses arlygu, cyfeiriwch at dudalen we'r Comisiwn:

- www.cffdl.llyw.cymru



www.cffdl.llyw.cymru



www.lldbc.gov.wales



Have your say on your Community.

All observations on these draft proposals should be sent to:

- The Chief Executive
Local Democracy and Boundary
Commission for Wales, Hastings House,
Fitzalan Court, Cardiff CF24 0BL

Or by email to:

- consultations@boundaries.wales

no later than 13 May 2024.

You can also send your responses through Llanddewi Brefi Community Council before 10 May, using the boxes in the Community Centre or The New Inn.

Or email:

- clerc@llanddewibrefi.org

For further information on the review and the review process please refer to the Commission webpage:

- www.lldbc.gov.wales

4/16/24

In the initial consultation, only 24 responses were received.
 20 Community Councils (out of 51)
 2 County Councillors, 1 Political Party Branch
 Only 1 member of the public.

This meeting has been organized to raise awareness of the review and the potential effect of the current proposals on this community, its representation, and its services. It is important that as many residents as possible respond to the consultation, setting out their views on how the changes will affect their community.
 To make the consultation as accessible as possible, in addition to the contact details shown, boxes will be placed here in the community centre, and at the New Inn, and the community council will collect and forward any responses received by 10th May

Ceredigion 087 – Cllr Angela Evans – Llanddewi Brefi

Dear Sir,

I write in opposition to the proposed Boundary changes for Llanddewi Brefi, representing myself as a private individual with a home in the Parish and also in my role as Community Councillor for the Llanddewi Brefi Community Council.

I was elected as Community Councillor on 21.07.23, a memorable day for many reasons, not least because the bi-election recorded one of the highest turnout of voters in some time. I visited every member of our parish in the lead up to election day and I made a promise to work hard and to engage and listen to our Community. I have kept my word, attended every Community Council meeting since being appointed and in addition, waived my annual mandatory allowance for “Reimbursement for extra costs of working from home” (under determination 6 of 2023) and engaged with our Community at every opportunity. As such, I confirm that at this time, there is a strong Community objection to the proposed Boundary Changes for Llanddewi Brefi because I have listened carefully to my electors.

Under current arrangements our Community Council is made up of 10 Councillors, all living amongst our Community. Many of the Council members are born and brought up in Llanddewi Brefi, with many years experience in their roles as Council members. Each one of us is truly committed to this small, rural Community where we thrive well as a Community because it’s a tight knit Community where we really do look after each other. Our Community Council works hard to preserve the IDENTITY of our village Community because we are closely connected as a Community, under the current Boundary arrangements for Llanddewi Brefi. Our countryside is a place where Community matters, where people look after each other, socialise and interact with each other. We are bonded and this is something that must be preserved at all costs.

Extending the Boundary, as proposed, is going to affect the services we support, as a Community Council, to keep our Community connected to maintain this IDENTITY. Llanddewi Brefi is currently the largest and most rural community in the area. As a Community Council we provide so many unique services and local support:

- . We act as sole trustee for our village Hall.
- . As a Burial Authority, we run and maintain cemetery services.
- . We support many local events and organisations via our small grants budget.
- . We maintain our publicly accessible grass areas, closed churchyard and footpaths.
- . Appointing trustees and providing clerical services to Fuel Allotments.
- . We maintain a public access defibrillator and hold bequeathed funds in reserves.
- . Provide a Youth Club, coordinate volunteers and act as a safeguarding lead.

. We have been proactive in obtaining grants for Community events and improving facilities amounting to £35K in the last 3 years.

The Community Council, in it's role as Hall Management Commitee, organises many Community events (the village carnival, our Annual Agricultural and Horticultural show, road running race event, the Christmas get together, Bonfire Night gathering and St David's Day Cawl Night) and our village Hall facilitates these events. The proposed merger and the complexities of the management of the precept could threaten the provision of these services. I am well aware, from attending many Council Meetings about these boundary proposals, that there is a strong possibility that the current Village Hall Charity could be forced to dissolve, closing facilities including the playground, playing fields football pitch and changing rooms.

Given that our Community has already lost its primary school, post office, shop and one of its two pubs I urge the Commission to reconsider its proposals.

Don't water down things any further at grass root level, as one of your Community Councillors, I care a great deal about my Community. Please don't force us to reduce in number, then over-stretch our ability to do our job. It simply isn't going to work to keep our Community connected.

Thank you for taking time to consider my concerns and I really do hope you will decide in favour of keeping things exactly as they are.

Yours sincerely,

Angela Evans.

Miss Angela Catharine Evans

Community Councillor / Llanddewi Brefi Community Council



Llanddewi Brefi

Tregaron

Ceredigion



Ceredigion 088 – [REDACTED] – Ysguborycoed

12/05/2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Representations in respect of The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission Report for Wales

Report for Ceredigion County Council

Ysguborycoed Community Council

I refer to the above Commission Report, perusal of which has caused me very considerable concern in relation to the changes proposed in relation to the Community in which I reside – Ysguborycoed. I set out below my representations in relation to the Report which appears to be wholly lacking in local knowledge.

Firstly, as you are intending to call the new mega-community area Ceulanamaesmawr – confusingly the same as the existing name of the largest proposed constituent part, and suggesting to the residents of that community that nothing for them will change – I shall, for the sake of clarity, refer to the existing Ceulanamaesmawr community area as Talybont. That is the name of the village which is the centre of that community.

I note that while the Commission suggests that a Community Council should have no fewer than 400 electors it adds that consideration will be given to the creation of Community Wards of fewer than 400 electors based on natural boundaries and the coherence of communities. The Community of Ysguborycoed should fall into that category as it is very separate and distinct from the communities with which merger is proposed (Llancynfelin and Talybont) which are very different in nature, and although very large in area and sparsely populated (243 electors) Ysguborycoed has a very cohesive, separate and distinct community.

Geography

The proposals have no regard for the pattern of settlements, geography, history or variation of culture within the proposed area.

On the ground and for social and cultural purposes the county of Ceredigion ceases at Llancynfelin. Less than a mile north of the village of Tre'r Ddol (Llancynfelin) Ceredigion meets the Dyfi Valley. For

some bizarre historic reason this small portion of the Dyfi Vally was lumped in with Cardiganshire. At the point at which Ceredigion meets the Dyfi Valley there is a clear and sudden change in the landscape and in the colloquial dialect in Welsh, from Cardiganshire Welsh to west Montgomeryshire/south Meirionnydd Welsh.

Ceredigion is a county with a strong north-south axis. The Dyfi Valley has a strong east-west axis from its start in the Dinas Mawddwy area of the Snowdonia National Park to its confluence with the sea at Aberdyfi and all along its broad flood plain in between. The river remains tidal inland for some two miles inland (north-east) of Ysguborycoed. Life in the Dyfi Valley is governed by the river, the tides and the river flooding – its farmland, roads and railways - and is focused on the town of Machynlleth.

Historically Ysguborycoed was part of Meirionnydd on the other side of the river Dyfi. At some stage in the past some bureaucrat decided a river would make a 'convenient' boundary – presumably simply because it was easy from a hundred or more miles away to mark on a map.

The Commission have suggested that consideration will be given to the creation of new Community Councils based on natural boundaries (see above) and coherence of communities. There is no, and can be no, coherence between the communities of Ysguborycoed and the other two proposed constituent parts of the proposed new community – Talybont and Llancynfelin. Ysguborycoed is a very different community from the other two. I set out some of the reasons below.

Talybont and Llancynfelin

Talybont village is 7 miles from the very centre of the town of Aberystwyth, some 5 miles from its outskirts. It has good, easy access to Aberystwyth, connected by a much improved, well up to standard, trunk road with a cycle path for most of its length. It is a satellite/ dormitory settlement/suburb of that town and culturally a part of it. Llancynfelin is less than a mile away from it along the A487 and has a similar focus on Aberystwyth and Cardiganshire/Ceredigion. The two settlements are close and similar, have adjacent and similar interests and concerns, and both very obviously located in, and part of, the Ceredigion countryside and its historic and geographical culture. As mentioned, both villages are firmly focused on Aberystwyth to the south.

Talybont village is large by rural Ceredigion standards. It has a substantial Council housing estate, several smaller private housing developments, a primary school, a printing business and shop, a purpose-built village/memorial hall, a pharmacy shop, a garage with shop, a post office with small supermarket, one busy public house, a second public house, restaurant/hotel currently closed and awaiting letting, a hairdresser, a village green and public conveniences, at least one functioning chapel and is the location for an annual agricultural village show. There is a large and rapidly filling community cemetery which the community there will no doubt be looking to expand by acquiring land for the purpose. The county council are busily trying to transfer ownership of the public conveniences to Talybont community council together with the associated running and repair costs.

Llancynfelin, spread across the merged villages of Tre Taliesin and Tre'r Ddol, has a public house/restaurant, a thriving community shop/ café/ meeting room with charging facilities for electric vehicles, an antique/ junk shop in the former school and a functioning chapel. There is a small Council housing estate in Tre'r Ddol.

There are ample pavements through all the above villages for easy pedestrian access through the villages and to access bus stops. Both the above communities have always enjoyed a frequent bus connection to Aberystwyth, the services travelling both direct and via the adjacent community of Borth.

There is no history of landed estates in these two communities, and historic industrial connection has been confined to providing accommodation for lead miners working in the mountains inland.

The population is of all ages with a balance between old and young, working and retired and not greatly affected by seasonal or other periodic variations arising from the tourist influx that Ysguborycoed suffers from.

Ysguborycoed

Ysgurorycoed is in the Dyfi Valley and includes the hills/mountains to the east towards Montgomeryshire. Ysguborycoed extends over a very large area with a sparse population. It has three main but small villages which have in effect merged into each other - Furnace at the south end, Eglwysfach in the middle and Glandyfi at the north end. It also has scattered hamlets in the hills inland of those villages, some miles away from the three main villages. This is completely different from Talybont where the population is mostly located in Talybont village which itself is in effect an outer suburb of Aberystwyth.

The most southerly part of Furnace, the most southerly settlement in Ysguborycoed, is 3 miles north of Llancynfelin and 5 miles north of Talybont. Glandyfi at the north end of Ysguborycoed is 7 miles from Talybont but only 5 miles from Machynlleth.

Road access to Machynlleth from Ysguborycoed takes about 10 minutes. Most people living in Ysguborycoed go to Machynlleth for the doctor (GPs), community hospital, out-patients appointments, dentist, solicitors, post office, grocery and other shopping, library, leisure centre, swimming pool, hotels, cafés, cultural events, musical concerts and courses and (for access by car) the main line railway station.

The road between Talybont/Llancynfelin and Ysguborycoed is sub-standard, twisting, narrow, subject to winter flooding through water run-off, is in one place collapsing (traffic currently restricted by apparently permanent temporary traffic lights). Save for a few hundred yards south of the village of Furnace where the speed limit is 60mph, there are no pavements, no cycle paths and in most places on the trunk road through it, no roadside verge.

In Ysguborycoed movement is firmly directed on travelling north to Machynlleth which is closer to the north end of the community than Talybont. There is little contact with Llancynfelin, and virtually no involvement with Talybont.

There is no, and never has been any, social housing in Ysguborycoed, housing historically having been provided by the owners of one of the three landed estates - Ynyshir, Glandyfi Castle and Cymmerau Hall – who at one time owned most of the Community. This has left a legacy of a very different housing stock and housing needs for which local community-based knowledge is required when dealing, as the current community council do, with planning applications.

There is no shop, no garage, no public house, no café or other retail facility in the Community.

The current Community Council is very much needed as it is as they organise, support, and assist the provision of community services and activities and facilities maintaining community cohesion and importantly ensure the provision of community information and furthering community involvement. They apply for grants from time to time for community facilities, such recently for the restoration of an old phone kiosk to house one of the village defibrillators. The current Ysguborycoed community council do all this as well providing and maintaining public access defibrillators, they ensure that all street lights are working, maintain verges on the numerous community lanes as well as monitoring and reporting on problems on the 30 miles of trunk and B roads as well as the many more miles of smaller roads in the Community, reporting problems found to the North and Mid Wales traffic agency and Ceredigion Council.

The population is predominantly older; middle-aged or old. Most are retired and those working tend to be either self-employed or working from home or working out of the area. There are few children. This is very different from Llancynfelin and Talybont.

Issues peculiar to Ysguborycoed (and in which the proposed larger Community Council, due to the much larger population of Talybont and Llancynfelin, their very different community nature, age and work demographic, and superiority of Councillor numbers, undoubtedly will not be interested) are that it :

- has a church with rapidly filling churchyard. No one outside these villages will have any interest in extending it. The church is listed and was the parish church of the poet RS Thomas and for that

reason attracts numerous visitors, this affects traffic and parking and is something that requires administrative attention at a Community level.

- has a listed early twentieth century pre-fabricated community hall (leasehold but the only secular community space) which has remained open supported by the Community Council, and which requires ongoing support from them. The abolition of Ysguborycoed community Council will undoubtedly prejudice this.

- has a 2* Michelin restaurant with rooms, generating some local employment and additional traffic. From time to time the administrative/traffic/licencing and planning issues arising need to be dealt with by those that live here and understand and not by those seven miles away who don't.

- supervises a substantial ancient monument owned by CADW - a listed 18th century Water Wheel and furnace and associated buildings that attract a lot of visitors,

- monitors and reports to CADW on problems (such as fly-tipping and rubbish clearing and dangerous surfaces) in their car park serving the Water Wheel. Without Council involvement nothing is done by CADW.

- has a nationally (UK) significant and well-known 800 hectare RSPB owned bird Reserve with visitor centre and facilities drawing in large numbers of visitors all year round. A few years ago the BBC series 'Springwatch' was filmed there.

- has although not actually in, but literally on the northern boundary of, the community in Glandyfi, the nationally known Osprey Project and its visitor centre and facilities (again attracting large numbers of visitors in particular in conjunction with the RSPB reserve).

- is traversed by the main line railway from Aberystwyth to Shrewsbury and has a station (accessible at present by foot only) at Dyfi Junction used by local residents. The present Community Council actively lobby the Railway authorities for improvement to the access. There have been interminable attempts over decades to terminate and curtail access – unsuccessful because of the representations of the Community.

- has much more tourist traffic than Llancynfelin and Talybont which exacerbates issues with parking (lack of), facilities (lack of) and pedestrian traffic and pedestrian access.

Talybont and Llancynfelin don't have these issues. Only the Community Council as it currently stands can deal with them. A Council seven miles away on which the of the seven Councillors have no interest in or knowledge of these matters is a deprivation of democracy in Ysguborycoed.

A huge difference between the residents of Ysguborycoed and those of Llancynfelin and Talybont is the lack of pavements on the main trunk road A487 and the heavy, including heavy commercial, traffic on that road, which makes walking anywhere in the community a life-risking experience. This has been the focus of decades of complaint, protest, correspondence and sustained campaigning by Ysguborycoed Community Council at all levels up to Welsh Assembly and in which Ceulanamaesmawr community council will have no interest at all. Our one representative will no doubt be marginalised and ignored while Ceulanamaesmawr Community council deal with matters they (in the majority) perceive as more important.

The Community of Ysguborycoed is very distinct and separate from the Communities to the south of it. I hope the above demonstrates that Ysguborycoed community has little to do with, nothing in common with, and is very separate from Llancynfelin and Talybont. One community councillor cannot possibly properly or democratically represent, or protect and further the interests of the least populated of three constituent communities, particularly when that smallest part has only one representative in a council of seven.

The proposed amalgamation of community councils into one – Ceulanamaesmawr – with 7 councillors, 4 for Talybont, 2 for Llancynfelin and a mere one for Ysguborycoed will ensure the total dominance of Talybont whose interests are adjacent and similar to those of Llancynfelin. It will leave Ysguborycoed effectively unrepresented and unserved – a total deprivation of democracy and tantamount to an imposed dictatorship.

Two other matters are ignored by the Commission.

The first is that no single Councillor can possibly take over the work that at present seven community councillors do. Should they try, they could not possibly do it justice. Who is their right mind would volunteer to take it on.

The second is that Ysguborycoed's Council Tax precept is about the lowest in the County. Talybont's is one of the highest. Presumably in the event of amalgamation everyone's precept will be increased to Talybont's level so Ysguborycoed council tax will see a significant increase and Ceulanamaesmawr will be only too happy to spend it there, for example on the aforementioned public conveniences or cemetery extension as Talybont's councillors being in the majority will have the say on how it is spent. Taxing electors more in order to deprive them of representation certainly isn't democratic. Reference 18th century America. No taxation without representation.

It is inconceivable that the Commission's proposals will, as they trenchantly state, provide more effective and convenient local government for Ysguborycoed. Their proposals in fact amount to a total removal of effective government at a community level, the deprivation of a voice and the denial of democracy to the inhabitants of the Community of Ysguborycoed and the imposition of the dictatorship of Talybont over them.

As to providing a clear boundary as the Commission maintains, maintaining the current boundary between Llancynfelin and Ysguborycoed far clearer than confusing it with irrelevant boundaries at the southern and eastern ends of Talybont.

Yours faithfully,



Ceredigion 089 – [REDACTED] (Clerk) – Llangrannog Community Council

Good evening

This is Llangrannog Community Council's response to the Community Review in Ceredigion. Could you confirm that you have received the attached document please.

With thanks,

[REDACTED]

Clerk

LLANGRANNOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL COMMENTS regarding CEREDIGION COMMUNITY SURVEY DRAFT PROPOSALS.

If the recommendations come into force, the change will affect 18 Community Councils out of a total of 51 Town & Community Councils in Ceredigion, which will be felt most in rural communities.

The existing Community Councils, including the smaller ones, are run very efficiently. They deliver grass root services at the heart of their communities. Community Councils are the bedrock of local democracy. We are the eyes and ears on the ground. Without the help and support of Community Councils, it would become difficult for the County Council to operate effectively without increasing the Council's workforce.

Ceredigion County Council recently asked Community Councils to consider taking on extra responsibilities with regards to services. It will be nigh on impossible for Community Councils to take on a heavier workload effectively with fewer Community Councillors.

In reality, the increased workload could result in fewer people wishing to become Community Councillors in the future. This could lead to the overall number of Community councillors diminishing considerably, putting the future of Community Councils at risk.

Pembrokeshire County Council has chosen a smaller number of electors as a threshold (refer to **), with the aim of supporting smaller and more rural communities and therefore supporting the desire to develop a strong basis for governance and democracy within the county. Ceredigion County Council should adopt a set of principles to support the decisions and measures, such as supporting smaller rural communities: supporting as many councils as possible to use the Welsh language; ensuring local accountability etc.

Llangrannog Community Council (L I C C) has 10 councillors who represent the residents of the villages of Llangrannog, Pontgarreg, Pentregat and Blaencelyn. The Council employs an efficient part-time Clerk who has appropriate qualifications for the post. The Councillors do not receive payment or claim expenses for their work. The Council's precept is relatively small and the councillors are aware of the need to ensure value for the taxpayer's money.

Although LI CC represents an area with fewer electors than the recommended number of electors per council, we strongly believe that our electors would continue to be better represented by 10 councillors, who carry out their duties voluntarily and effectively on behalf of the four villages within the parish of Llangrannog. We work hard to ensure the voice of the community is heard, and any concerns are dealt with quickly and professionally.

This system is effective and efficient:

- members do not claim payment.
- the workload increases but the running cost remains the same.
- the current boundaries reflect geographical patterns.

Llangrannog Community Council would prefer not to merge with a neighbouring council.

If LI CC merges with Penbryn Community Council (P CC), it could damage the community spirit of the area LI CC serves. For some Councils mergers may be suitable, but some merged community councils could become more of a land mass than a community.

P CC serves a wider geographical area covering six villages. Should the merger go ahead, LI CC believes the new Council should be served by no fewer than 10 elected councillors in order to serve the 10 villages across the two parishes.

Should the merger with P CC go ahead, the new council will only require one clerk. However, the clerk's workload will increase which will mean more contractual hours for that person.

The Council will not save money, as the existing precepts will be needed in order to maintain the same level of services for both communities.

If there are two different levels of precept in the two wards that merge, robust financial systems will need to be in place, so that

- the two different levels can be kept within the new Council.
- there is a statutory procedure to follow in order to reach an agreement on which precept should change, if it is not possible to keep the two different levels of precept.
- appropriate steps are taken to ensure one ward's funding is spent in that ward's area only.

If the two precepts are not handled separately, there is a danger that one ward may win every vote to use the money in their own area, as there are more councillors representing that area than the other area.

The reduction in the number of councillors from 21 to 7 (serving a vast area) will result in the workload for elected councillors on the new Community Council being trebled. This increased workload will be replicated in all the merged councils within Ceredigion. This could also lead to difficulty in recruiting new Community councillors throughout the county in the future.

LI CC members wonder why P CC has been chosen for a possible merger, as Penbryn was considered to have a sufficient number of electors (1106) to be a stand-alone Electoral Ward recently. Llangrannog, with 637 electors, was duly merged with Llandysiliogogo (902 electors) to create a new Electoral Ward.

If LI CC has to merge with a neighbouring council, it would be more logical for LI CC to merge with Llandysiliogogo CC to coincide with the electoral boundary.

The LDBC proposes that Llandysiliogogo CC merges with Troedryaur and Llangynllo Community Councils which would cover an even wider rural area representing 2061 electors.

Should Community Council mergers go ahead, alternative combinations could be as follows :-
Llangrannog CC + Llandysiliogogo CC= 1539 electors.

Troedryaur CC (Troedryaur + Llangynllo Wards) = 1159 electors.

Penbryn CC could remain as it is with 1115 electors, which is similar in size to Y Ferwig CC which will be an independent Community Council serving 1006 electors under the proposal.

The County Council and Boundary Commission support the principles of

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 which gives a legally binding common purpose of seven Well-being goals and five ways of working designed to support and deliver public service that meets their needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Keeping LI CC as it is, supports the goal of the WG, the County Council and the BGC to ensure community sustainability, use the Welsh Language and ensure inclusion on a democratic level. A change / merger with another council would undermine one of the main strengths of the current system. The majority of members are able to walk to the meetings, as they live locally and within the community. A change would create a more significant *carbon footprint* and challenge the welfare goals of the Act as well.

If Ceredigion County Council members adopt a similar stance to that of Pembrokeshire County Council, as outlined below, there will be no need for any change in the number of Town and Community Councils that exist in Ceredigion.

Members of Ceredigion County Council, together with members of the LDBC are kindly asked to consider the above points before reaching a final decision.

Thank you.

**** PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DECISION :-**

Currently there are 24 Community Councils out of a total of 78 Town and Community Councils in Pembrokeshire which represent under 480 electors each.

Originally, the County Council's policy was to look at merging all Community Councils with less than 480 electors with neighbouring councils.

In October 2023, an amendment was put forward at a full meeting of Pembrokeshire County Council members, that any Community Council of under 500 electors should be given the option of merging with another Community Council should they wish to do so, rather than having restrictions imposed on them. The amendment was approved.

Ceredigion 090 – [REDACTED] – Llangynfelyn

Please find attached my objections to the draft proposal.

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[REDACTED]

Mobile - [REDACTED]



12 May 2024

**COMMUNITY REVIEW – DRAFT PROPOSALS RELATING TO CEULANAMAESAARM, CEREDIGION
LLANGYNFELYN AND YSGUBOR Y COED**

As a resident of the current community of Llangynfelyn I wish to express objections to the proposed boundary changes and formation of a single Community comprising 3 wards.

My primary objection is that the proposed allocation of Ward councillors within the new Community of CEULANAMAESAARM would mean the new Ward of CEULANAMAESAARM would have a majority vote over the combined votes of the other 2 Wards. This could potentially lead to lack of democracy across the new Community and *does not reflect local identities nor facilitate effective and convenient local government.*

The demographics and difference in amenities across the three proposed wards mean it would not be reasonable, at least in the early years, for councillors of any ward to be expected to have an in-depth knowledge of the needs of the other wards. This could lead to further loss of their ability *to reflect local identities.*

Demographics and amenities

(I have excluded the existing community of Ysgubor Y Coed as I do not have sufficient knowledge of that community. They submitted evidence to the commission in relation to community differences in the original consultation in 2023 to which I can contribute nothing further)

This following information is tabulated below.

Demographics

The existing community of LLANGYNFELYN is, the main, concentrated in the villages of Tre-Taliesin and Tre'R-Ddol with a few households lying in the more rural areas of the community. (ONS population figures 2021 – 581 which gives a population density of 25.74 per square kilometre. Of this population 193 are aged 60 years or above (33%))

The existing community of CEULANAMAESAARM, whilst having a significant number of households in the village of Tal-Y-Bont has a large number of households in the more rural areas of the

community. (ONS population figures 2021 – 996 which give a population density of 16.00 per square kilometre. Of this population 291 are aged 60 years or above (29%)

Amenities

Commercial amenities

The existing community of LLANGYNFELYN has the following commercial amenities: -

The Wildfowler Inn

The existing community of CEULANAMAESAWRM has the following commercial amenities: -

The White Lion public house

A hairdresser/ barber shop

A convenience stores

A Pharmacy

A petrol station / garage.

Schools.

The existing community of LLANGYNFELYN does not have a school.

The existing community of CEULANAMAESAWRM has a primary school.

Community facilities.

The existing community of LLANGYNFELYN, in the absence of local commercial amenities, is hugely dependent on community provision.

Cletwr – a community run shop/café which provides local access to shopping services but also acts a hub for community cohesion and the provision of social/cultural events.

Lanfach Hall – a community space which hosts numerous social and wellbeing groups. The weekly events calendar demonstrates the need for the space and its value to the community.

The existing community of CEULANAMAESAARM also has a well used village hall.

	CEULANAMAESAARM	LLANGYNFELYN
2021 Population	996	581
2021 Population density	16	25.74
2021 Population age >60	291 (29%)	193 (33%)
Schools	1	0
Community shop / cafe	0	1
Community hall	1	1
Commercial public house	1	1
Commercial pharmacy	1	0
Commercial shop	1	0
Commercial garage/ petrol station	1	0
Commercial hairdresser/barber	1	0

I therefore request that the electoral commission reconsider their proposals to ensure the outcome does indeed *'Ensure that communities continue to reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government.'*

██████████ -

M: ██████████

E: ████████████████████

Ceredigion 091 – [REDACTED] – Taliesin

I am writing this as a very concerned member of Llangynfelyn community my husband and I have lived in Taliesin for nearly 30 years and seen the benefits of having local councillors to look after our area

I understand that there is a draft plan to amalgamate the three community councils, namely Llangynfelin, Ysgubor-y-Coed and Ceulanamaesmawr under one council of Caelanamaesmawr. The number of councillors proposed is a joke and totally unworkable.

I was horrified to learn that the total number of councillors proposed is only 7 for the whole area and allocated according to population. The proportion for the three areas are 4 for Talybont, 2 for Taliesin/Tre'r Ddol and 1 for the three villages in Ysgubor-y-coed. How would this work? Any controversial decision would be weighted towards Talybont community. Each area is unique and has their own specific communities with highlights and problems to manage and this requires having meetings with enough members to resolve these issues on a very local basis.

Is this a cost cutting exercise? as the amount (£150 per councillor per year for expenses) is minimal and doesn't anyway do justice to the amount of work that these volunteers do for nothing. I have just learnt that at least for the past 8 years no one has claimed these expenses.

The local community councillors attend regular community meetings which take up their personal time. Here they plan and discuss local issues and allocate jobs.

Is Ceredigion Council proposing to pay someone to monitor and inform the council of local issues such as moving the bus stops to a safer place in the village, which our councillors successfully achieved; also informing and lobbying for more bus shelters and road repairs in both Taliesin and Tre'r Ddol; consulting on planning applications; helping local groups to obtain grants; running special events that benefit the community and providing information on the local community website. The local councillors also check the street lighting, hedge growth, local public benches and notice boards.

I would very much like to be informed of the reason for these cuts as I feel it's very short sighted and would only result in a decline in the villages' appearances and the well being of the people who live there. The knock on effect is huge. At present local groups support and help local residents. Without the support of the community council these groups would struggle to survive and this will cause added stress and loneliness, particularly to the elderly.

I look forward to hearing from you and hope that you will take my concerns into account.

[REDACTED] Taliesin.
[REDACTED] Taliesin, [REDACTED]

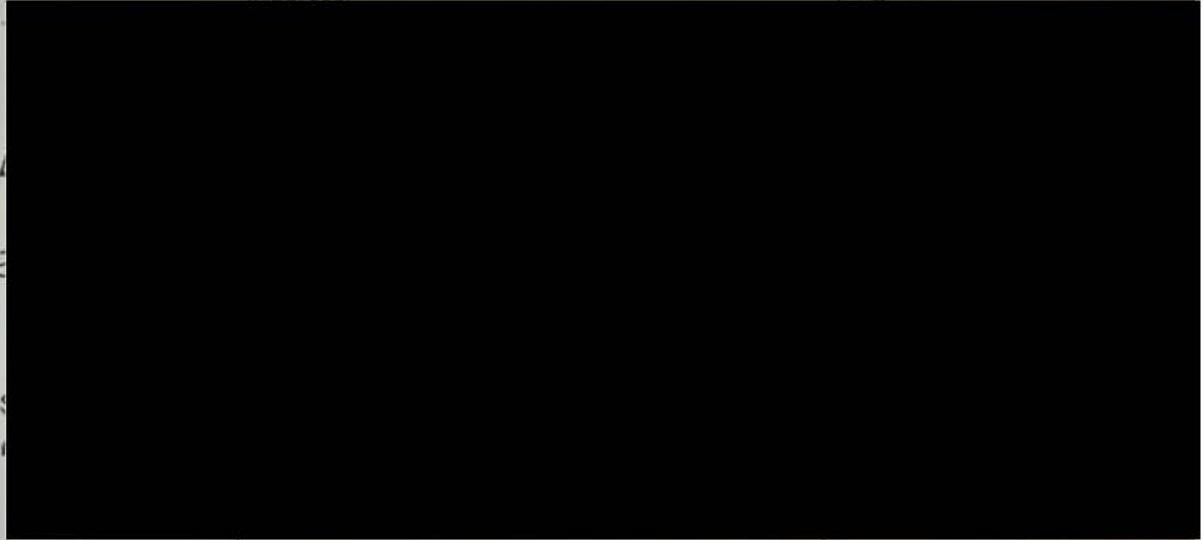
Below are signatures of 38 local people living in Llangynfelyn who agree with this letter. There would be more but time was limiting.

Re amalgamation of local community councils - signatures,
names and addresses of local people who agree with the
enclosed letter.

Name.

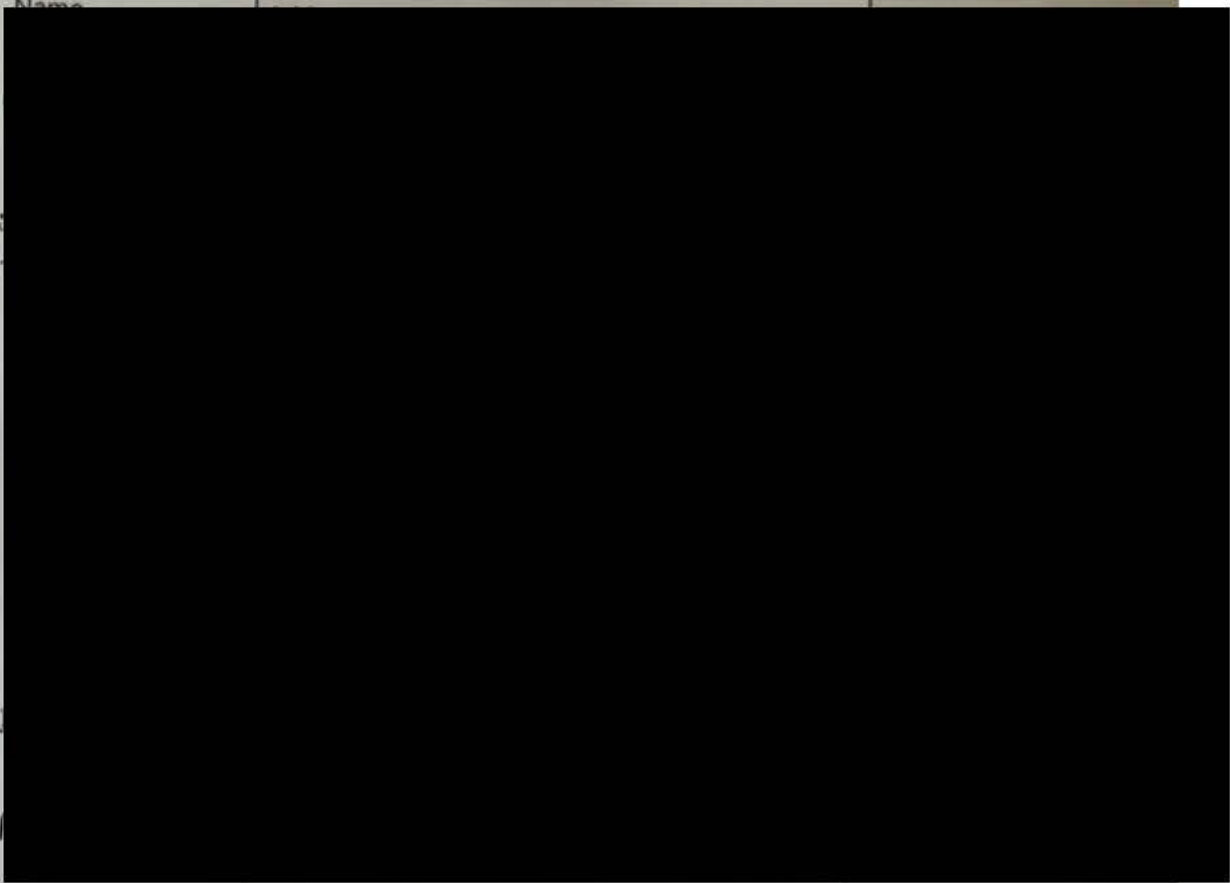
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Signature~

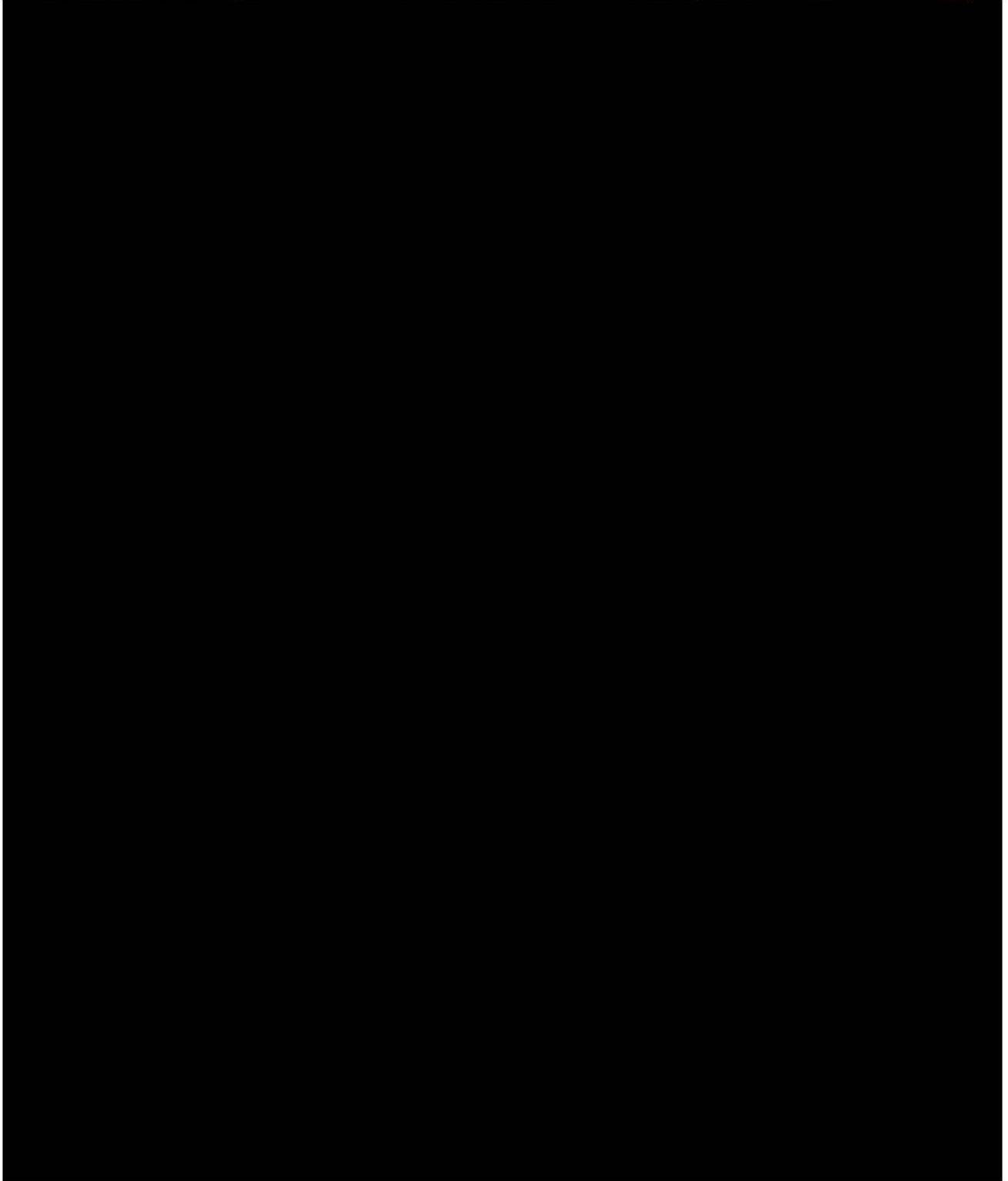


Re amalgamation of local community councils - signatures
names and addresses of local people who agree with the
enclosed letter.

Name



Re amalgamation of local community councils - signatures,
names and addresses of local people who agree with the
enclosed letter.



Ceredigion 092 – [REDACTED] Llanddewi Brefi

To whom this may concern

I am writing to express my grave concerns regarding the proposed boundary changes that would see Llanddewi Brefi amalgamated 😞

Firstly, reducing our Community Council from 10 to just 4 representatives is illogical when they represent us in different ways, forgo their 'salary' and work well together to do what is best for a community that they understand and who have voted for them. I fear that as a rural community we are being forced to have a smaller voice whilst money is being spent to create more Senedd members to tell us what to do - democratic Wales is under threat.

Our Community Council provides us with a voice at County level and is served by local people who understand our way of life and readily represent us.

As a small-holder and gardener I identify strongly with the rural community and district of Llanddewi Brefi. I am an active member of several Llanddewi Brefi Organisations = WI, Friendship Club. Horticultural Show Secretary, Carnival, Community Caffi. These and many other Llanddewi Brefi Clubs & Societies rely on the Community Centre. As a rural and aging population we risk becoming more isolated (public transport is already at a bare minimum) so rely more heavily on communication, support and activities in the local community. The Community Centre is used by all age groups from Youth Club, Young Mums, CFFI (YFC), Football (Dewi Stars) to Art Group and WI and our annual Horticultural Show had 700+ entries in 2023 - this is a thriving community - don't destroy it.

The Canolfan is also available for private hire and public events. I know it has seen Christening Parties, Birthday events and Funeral Teas - a truly multi-functional and well used community resource.

The purchase of an interactive screen proved invaluable during and post Covid when people were able to learn to use the Zoom facility to stay in touch with their Club or friendship group.

The Community Cafe is developing rapidly and may soon set up an alternative to the recently closed village shop. It welcomes all and is a safe and popular meeting place for all ages, abilities and interests (eg an adult Special Needs group attends every Tuesday)

Llanddewi Brefi is a welcoming place but has its own distinct identity and I urge you to respect this and not wreck our community ideals, responsibilities and activities.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 092 Part 2 – [REDACTED] – Llanddewi Brefi

I omitted my address from my original email

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tregaron

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 093 – [REDACTED] – Llangynfelyn

As a resident of Tre-Taliesin I wish to lodge my objection to the proposed boundary changes and formation of a single community of three wards.

I do not believe this would be in the best interest of residents in Tre- Taliesin or Tre'r-Ddohl due to the fact that Tal - y - Bont will have the majority vote and be able to override community issues as they will be given four councilors and will always, then, have the greater say. This alone would be detrimental with regard to decision making and funding for each ward outside of Tal - y bont. I feel this would be grossly unfair.

Each area has their own issues to deal with. How two councillors would be able to achieve the same amount of work seems unrealistic.

Tal - y Bont already has greater amenities and the community of Llangynfelyn is reliant on community provision. Funding for our rural community projects and groups needs to continue, I feel this could be put at risk as a direct result of the current proposals, should they go ahead.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 094 – Clerk – Llanilar Community Council

Please find attached letter from Llanilar Community Council in response to the Ceredigion Community Review prior to the review closing date of the 13.05.24.

PLEASE CONFIRM RECEIPT OF THIS EMAIL.

Kind regards

Clerk

on behalf of Llanilar Community Council

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Llanilar Community Council's response to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission's Community Review

We write with regards to the above. The Llanilar community Council met on Tuesday 7th May where the Boundary Commission's Community review was discussed. All council members were in agreement that there was no validation for the change and that Llanilar boundaries should remain as current.

The justification for this is as follows;

- Our Community Council currently has a constituency of 914, which is not likely to decrease significantly in the near future. As such, we believe that we meet the requirements for the size of rural communities under the new regime.
- Existing boundary has proved to be an effective and convenient way of managing facilities for the people of the area since it was established.
- 10 councillors are elected every five years and there has been no problem filling the seats.
- Keeping the current boundaries within the local community allows ward representation to be accessible to all community members, with councillors providing a local link with local knowledge to effectively serve the local community.
- There is a wide variation of issues raised within rural areas. Due to the logistics of rural communities, with members being distributed over vast areas, a merger would be a detriment to how efficiently the council assist and respond to these issues.
- The council members do not receive any payment or make any expenses claims for their work, therefore the proposals outlined within the review would be of no financial gain.

We see no need to divide the community into wards or change the name of the community. Following consideration of the relevant parts of the remit, that the current Community boundary reflects the identities and interests of the community and that its area provides effective and convenient local government.

To that end, there was no need for changes to the existing Community Council area.

Kind regards

Clerk

On behalf of Llanilar Community Council

Ceredigion 095 – [REDACTED] (Clerk) – Llangynfelyn Community Council

To whom it may concern

Please see attached a response by Cyngor Cymuned Llangynfelyn in response to the Local Democracy and Boundary commission - Ceredigion Community review draft proposals consultation.

Please note this response was written by the Chair of Cyngor Cymuned Llangynfelyn, on behalf of the council - x9 councillors.

Yn gywir

[REDACTED]

Clerc Cyngor Cymuned Llangynfelyn

Cyngor Cymuned Llangynfelyn Community Council

TO: The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales - Ceredigion
Community Review

SUBJECT: Ceredigion Community Review – Draft Proposals

Cyngor Cymuned Llangynfelyn write regarding the draft proposal, outlined in the Ceredigion Community Review, to merge Llangynfelyn community council with Ysgubor-y-Coed and Ceulanamaesmawr community councils.

The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales indicates that it believes that effective and convenient local government is best achieved by merging communities that have internal road links and similar patterns of settlement.

The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales suggests that a Community Council area should have no fewer than 800 electors, however, it also indicates that consideration will be given to the creation of Community Wards of less than 400 electors where there are strong reasons based on evidence.

We wish to highlight that, in our opinion, this proposed merger between Llangynfelyn, Ysgubor-y-Coed and Ceulanamaesmawr would **not** achieve “effective and convenient local government” whilst ensuring that “communities continue to reflect local identities”. Whilst there might be internal road links (which would be the same road link as Bow Street, Aberystwyth, Llanrhystud and all other villages and towns along the A487) Llangynfelyn does not have similar patterns of settlement as Ceulanamaesmawr and Ysgubor-y-Coed. Llangynfelyn has a denser population than the other two wards and no remote hill roads and scattered communities. It is a much smaller geographic ward.

Effective and Convenient Local Government

Cyngor Cymuned Llangynfelyn currently represents Llangynfelyn, Tre'r Ddol, Tre-Taliesin and Craig y Penrhyn - this covers the area from the Leri estuary in the west to Moel y Llyn in the east, and from Lodge Park in the north to Talybont on the A487 to the south. The total area of Llangynfelyn ward is 9 sq miles (23 km²) - represented by 9 councillors.

Shereen Williams MBE OStJ, Chief Executive of the Welsh Local Democracy and Boundaries Commission, has said ***“Communities are the level of government closest to the people, and it is essential that they continue to represent people correctly in all parts of Ceredigion” and “we now need to hear from the people of Ceredigion so that we (The Commission) are in the best possible position to produce final recommendations that meet the needs of the county’s residents.”***

With the current level of representation – 9 community councillors, all residents of Llangynfelyn ward enjoy at least one councillor in their close vicinity. The proposal that Cyngor Cymuned Llangynfelyn should be dispersed and replaced by **two councillors** would mean it will be

extremely difficult to ensure that all our electors would receive correct representation. This would undermine the Commission's general duty which is to "seek to ensure effective and convenient local government" and comments made by their own Chief Executive.

The draft proposed merger of the 3 current community council wards to form one larger Community Council of (a new) Ceulanamaesmawr ward comprising of two community councillors from Llangynfelyn, one from Ysgubor-y-Coed and four from (the present) Ceulanamaesmawr, will inevitably have an impact on each individual Councillor's time and ability to fully engage and participate with electors and issues concerning them.

The proposed Community of Ceulanamaesmawr community council will, in all likelihood, struggle to effectively manage their greater number of assets spread across a vast area of some 12762 hectare [1] (49.2743575 sq miles) whilst, as the Commission states it should, "consider the need for electoral equality and democratic fairness for all electors". With the division of community councillors stacked heavily in favour of Ceulanamaesmawr – x4 community councillors, on this proposed Community of Ceulanamaesmawr community council, the current wards of Llangynfelyn and Ysgubor-y-Coed will effectively be disadvantaged. Any resolution matter could have Ceulanamaesmawr enjoying **unfair dominance** and the Commission are in effect establishing Ceulanamaesmawr ward as an autocracy, should community councillors from Ceulanamaesmawr ward wish to behave in such a manner. Although it is unlikely that any councillor from Ceulanamaesmawr ward would behave in such a way; the Commission will have paved the way for this to happen.

Local Identity

As stated above Cyngor Cymuned Llangynfelyn currently represents Llangynfelyn, Tre'r Ddol, Tre-Taliesin and Craig y Penrhyn. Tre'r Ddol and Tre-Taliesin are populated village areas with a small but well supported community hall and a prosperous community owned café and shop. Llangynfelyn and Craig y Penrhyn are farming communities comprising of smallholdings and family run farms.

North of Llangynfelyn ward is Ysgubor-y-Coed ward, whose boundary is a mere half mile from the community shop and café but extends for a further 11 miles or so, by public highway, to the boundary with Powys. As the most northerly area of Sir Ceredigion, Ysgubor-y-Coed is a very rural community with a clear identity of its own which differs greatly from Llangynfelyn ward in both demographics and geography.

South of Llangynfelyn ward is Ceulanamaesmawr ward, which focusses on the village of Talybont with privately owned village shop, petrol station, and pharmacy, Ysgol Talybont, and a vibrant community hall. Ceulanamaesmawr ward also incorporates the village of Bontgoch which is located a further 4 miles east of Talybont village accessed by a single-track council road.

In the event of the proposed merger of Llangynfelyn ward, Ysgubor-y-Coed ward, and Ceulanamaesmawr ward to form the Community of Ceulanamaesmawr ward, the community councillors on this new proposed ward would cover an area of 49.27 sq miles as it would span 20

miles by public highway from North to South, not to mention the area from East to West spanning much rural area which is accessed by unclassified council c-roads.

Each of the current wards have very different identities and divergent demographics. These ward identities have been formed over the generations, not only by the people who choose to build their homes within their chosen ward, but also by the different landscapes within each ward.

The Commission will need to carefully consider the possible effects of the proposed merger on the electoral equality and democratic fairness for all electors across all 3 current wards.

Size of Councils

Llangynfelyn community council currently comprises of x9 community councillors and is represented at county level by x1 county councillor.

What Cyngor Cymuned Llangynfelyn Community Council does on a regular basis:

1. It consults on planning applications.
2. Maintains guardianship of parish owned land at Cors Fochno.
3. It supports local groups and events with grants drawn from the precept.
4. Monitors and reports problems to both NMWTRA (North and Mid Wales Traffic Agency) and Ceredigion County Council on the many roads within the ward.
5. Ensures that all street lighting within the villages is working properly.
6. Collaborates with NRW at Cors Fochno – which is part of the Dyfi National Nature Reserve and home to one of the largest and finest remaining examples of a raised peat bog in Britain.
7. Monitors and maintains local public benches.
8. Monitors and reports local problems to Ceredigion County Council, including bringing pressure to bear in clearing rubbish and fly tipping within the parish.
9. Councillors regularly co-operate with local groups, particularly the Llanfach committee, to organise and run special events e.g. ball run fund-raiser, [REDACTED] mediumship evening, etc.
10. Provides and maintains the Community Council website.
11. Provides and maintains public information notice boards.
12. Provides and maintains hedge growth maintenance on various public rights of way.
13. Supports other local groups applying for specific grants including a recent one for Llanfach Hall.

Along with many other matters noted by community councillors and/or drawn to their attention by electors. **This level of care and attention to detail would be lost if only x2 representatives would be campaigning for Llangynfelyn on a much larger area Community Council.**

The Commission suggests that “an individual ward should not contain less than 400 electors, generally.” The Ceredigion Community Review – Draft Proposals, confirm that Llangynfelyn ward had 498 electorate 2023 and estimates an electorate of 486 in 2028. The Commission’s draft proposals contradict its own advice by suggesting merger of Llangynfelyn ward with Ysgubor-y-Coed and Ceulanamaesmawr wards. The Commission’s justification for this proposal seems to be

based around the use of the word **Community** – “A community should not contain less than 800 electors, generally.” This introduction of the term Community versus Ward would suggest that the Commission and Ceredigion County Council are attempting to gaslight Llangynfelyn ward into acceptance of the proposed merger?

We therefore ask the Commission to reconsider its draft proposal and advise Ceredigion County Council to proceed with the current community council arrangements, making note of the low population density of Ceredigion. The destruction of 19 community councils across Ceredigion will not assist in the provision of “effective and convenient local government” or “give residents a democratic voice in the decisions that affect them”.

Yn gywir,

 (Chair)

On behalf of Cyngor Cymuned Llangynfelyn

Post Script:

Commission: "When developing our proposals, we have considered local connections and looked very carefully at every representation presented to us".

During the first consultation period, 09/05/2023 to 03/07/2023, Cyngor Cymuned Llangynfelyn noted The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales - Ceredigion Community Review, please see minutes for meeting dated 08/05/2023 [CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANGYNFELYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL - Home / Hafan \(weebly.com\)](#). However, Cyngor Cymuned Llangynfelyn choose not to make representations at that time as they did not consider that The Commission were likely to recommend the dispersal of Cyngor Cymuned Llangynfelyn and a proposed merger of Llangynfelyn ward with Ysgubor-y-Coed and Ceulanamaesmawr wards due to The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales - Ceredigion Community Review, Terms-of-Reference-V2, Council Size Policy page 6/7, Rural • Ensure that a community ward has no fewer than 400 electors.

[1] UK Census 2021

Ceredigion 096 – Cllr Dafydd Lloyd-Jones – Llanddewi Brefi Community Council

12th May 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

Having been a Community Councillor in Llanddewi-Brefi for over 30 years, I feel very strongly against the proposal of boundary change for our parish. Reducing the number of councillors to 4 would mean losing many long-standing councillors who have worked voluntary and for free for many years, who are very much aware of and know the parish and community spirit.

Bringing in members from neighbouring parishes would only lessen the benefit for our community. Neighbouring Community Councillors would have no interest in the goings on in Llanddewi-Brefi and vice versa.

I do hope that you will reconsider the proposed change to our Parish boundaries, why change a system that is working perfectly.

Thank you.

Cllr Dafydd Lloyd-Jones

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

13/05/2024

Ceredigion 097 – [REDACTED] (Clerk) – Llangybi Community Council

Dear Boundary and Local Democracy Commission for Wales

See attached Llangybi Community Council's response on a Review of Community Arrangements for Ceredigion County Council.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Clerc Cyngor Cymuned Llangybi

Llangybi Community Council Clerk

[REDACTED]

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANGYBI

(LLANGYBI COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Clerc/Clerk

May 12, 2024

Boundary and Local Democracy Commission for Wales
Hastings House
Fitzalan Place
Cardiff
CF24 0BL

Dear Boundary and Local Democracy Commission for Wales

This is a response on behalf of Llangybi Community Council to the Initial Proposals Report for the review and community arrangements for Ceredigion County Council: -

We note that there is a proposal to merge Llangybi/Silian Ward, Llanfair Clydogau Ward and Llanddewi Brefi Ward into one large Ward called Llanddewi Brefi?

We have to assume that the only research into this was done in a remote office as anyone with knowledge of the areas involved would immediately realise why this is not a viable option and would definitely not "provide a more effective and convenient local government".

On behalf of Llangybi Ward, they support and/or help with: -

- Local events, BBQs etc.
- 2 Silian and Llangybi village improvement societies.
- Planning Applications with detailed information of the area.
- Community identities and interests.
- Village pride through gardening, mowing etc.
- Many other day-to-day events.

The proposals would centralise this to an area located many miles away from the communities represented and send a message to the remote communities that they are

not considered important or worth representing.

Councillors, who give their time and efforts to the community free of charge, would have to travel long distances to a meeting that would likely last two or three times as long as it is now, if all the topics of the present Ward are to be discussed.

However, many of the topics discussed will be irrelevant to most councillors attending. For example, Llanddewi Brefi Councillors will have little interest in the events in the village of Silian, many miles away.

Each Council has different priorities at the moment. Trying to combine these into one Ward located many miles away from the prioritised projects is almost certain to lead to friction. Projects will be dropped from the furthest areas to prioritise the central Ward area, and therefore reduced services will be offered to the remote areas.

We feel that there are many more reasons why the proposal has not been thoroughly considered and is not maintainable, and we strongly oppose the changes proposed. In our opinion, the setting of the boundaries currently used is satisfactory and does not need to be changed.

Thank you



(Clerk – Llangybi Community Council)

Ceredigion 098 – [REDACTED] – Lledrod

I live in the Lledrod Community Council area. For me the proposals mean that my new Community Council would be an amalgam of the Lledrod, Llanygryfon and Llangeitho Community Councils. Further, Lledrod specific Councillors would be reduced from 9 to 3.

I do not believe that fewer councillors have any chance of representing the very different needs and wishes of communities in working in a geographically greater area. The Community Councillors are not political appointees, they are representing Communities, grown through history and affected by local topography, natural resources and tradition. Needs and aspirations of communities within this proposed new area are very different. They have not suddenly changed and become homogeneous. Fewer Councillors have no chance of providing anything like a representative approach to Communities in this part of Ceredigion.

I do not agree to the proposed boundary changes. I strongly object to them.

Yours

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Ceredigion 099 – [REDACTED] – Llanddewi Brefi

LLANDDEWI BREFI PARISH

Attached please find a document outlining our objection to the proposed boundary changes

in Ceredigion which we trust will be given due consideration.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

OBJECTION – OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES

We are both residents of Llanddewi Brefi parish; John, my husband, was born and raised here and I married him in 1982 and settled to live in Pistyll y Gwehydd, on the outskirts of the village.

We both strongly object to the parliament's decision to increase the number of our MPs in days where money is so scarce with increasing cuts in grassroots services. At the same time, we see top administrative jobs expanding with artificially high salaries. Where is the common sense? To add to this, we see the developments to reduce the number of our Councillors by 4 and members of our Community Council by 6. These are Councillors who give up their limited time to serve their community, free of charge. Again, where is the sense? How can this be an accurate representation?

If cuts are needed – start at the top, with all the administrative jobs with artificially large salaries in Ceredigion!!!

Come back, please to represent the people of Ceredigion, and the parish of Llanddewi Brefi in particular. Llanddewi Brefi Community Councillors have not been a burden on the County's coffers as none have even received the £150, they are owed.

Llanddewi Brefi Parish is the second largest parish in Wales – so how in the world do you expect 4 councillors to represent such a wide area. Joining other parishes and bringing Councillors from neighbouring parishes is not the solution to the problem. There would be time wasted discussing unnecessary issues.

WHAT WE NEED is a complete overhaul and a reduction in the highly paid salaried employees of Ceredigion. Staff back working in offices where access is available to the residents of Ceredigion to discuss matters of importance. A complete reversal, please of what is provided by Ceredigion now.

We are happy with the current situation; our Community Councillors are actively providing functions and services in the village for the community's benefit. If Ceredigion cannot function within a certain budget, why not reduce the Council Tax and hand over the money to the existing Community Councils to pay for the services so badly required in our area. We need our representatives and County Councillor to reside in the area, as at present, for they know the needs of the people they represent. This will be lost when Wards amalgamate and bringing in Councillors from other wards.

Do remember, we live in a democratic country, therefore the will of the residents of Ceredigion should be paramount, not legislation imposed from above.

We very much doubt whether our views will be considered but aired all the same.

Signed:

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]

[Redacted Title]

[Redacted Address]

[Redacted City]

Ceredigion 100 – [REDACTED] - Llangynfelyn

To whom it may concern

Please see attached my response to the Local Democracy and Boundary commission draft proposals - Ceredigion Community review consultation.

Cofion gynnes

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 101 – Cllr Ceris Jones – Llanfihangel Ystrad Ward

Hello,

I attach my response to the consultation on Community Council boundaries, with regard to Llanfihangel Ystrad and Nantcwnlle as the local Member.

I would be grateful if you could confirm your receipt of this email.

Thank you

Ceris Jones
Local Councillor, Llanfihangel Ystrad Ward
Penmorfa
Aberaeron

Response by the County Councillor for Llanfihangel Ystrad Ward to the proposed changes outlined in the Review of the Community Arrangements of Ceredigion, March 2024.

I appreciate your consideration of the following points regarding the recommendations to merge community councils. I have two community councils under consideration – Llanfihangel Ystrad Community Council, and Nantcwnlle Community Council. Firstly, I think it is important that Community Council wards remain within a Ward at County Council level, to ensure that there is no complexity in terms of responsibilities, and to reduce doubling the number of County Councillors who would need attend community meetings.

With regard to the two councils, it does not make sense in socio-geographical terms to merge Llanfihangel Ystrad with Llanwnnen, and Nantcwnlle with Ciliau Aeron and Cilcennin. Llanfihangel Ystrad Ward was previously merged with Dihewyd Ward in 1987. At that time, there was no opposition since the merger was a natural one between the two wards based on socio-economic grounds relating to the Vale of Aeron area. There are no cultural links between Llanfihangel Ystrad Ward and Llanwnnen.

I agree that we need fair representation for all areas on community councils, but I strongly disagree that this is the right way to do it. With larger areas and fewer councillors, representation for the electorate will become less fair, there is the risk of electors not knowing who their councillors are, and councillors may have less understanding of their ward because it is so extensive, leading to a lack of interest on issues outside their natural patch. With more extensive areas to represent, it will be less appealing for individuals to stand as community councillors, and costs may become higher as councillors claim for travel and for their time. Currently, in the two wards that I represent as county councillor, there isn't a single community councillor claiming any payment for their time or their work. It is extremely important to have councillors who know their area and their electorate in wards and rural areas. They understand how communities are run on the ground and see problems first-hand. Reducing the number of councillors and increasing the size of an area would lead to loss of the personal element and local knowledge essential to governing a community council. There is a risk of losing community council clerks and fewer individuals wanting to do the work due to dealing with a larger region with areas that are less familiar to them, and they will want to be paid more for their position since it will involve so much more work.

The two wards in my constituency run their community councils through the medium of Welsh. It is very natural for councillors to discuss important issues in their communities through the medium of Welsh. Costs are reduced because there is no need to hire translation facilities and pay for a translator. This is an extremely important consideration in keeping the Welsh language alive in our rural communities, and to ensure that we achieve one million Welsh speakers by 2050.

I am very confident that the two community councils in my constituency:

- Comply in their governance
- Have a natural geographical boundary between the wards
- Are very supportive of the community in their projects
- Have a good understanding of their areas and are aware of problems that need attention
- Have knowledge and understanding of its areas within the community council, and a recognition of their areas' challenges and requirements.
- Community councillors are vital in supporting and preserving local identity and are very important in preserving the feeling of belonging within rural areas and communities.

- The current allocation of councillors allows balance within the council between the communities they represent.
- They are fair-minded, making decisions that benefit the community and the electorate.
- Currently, all seats on the council and clerk positions are filled for both wards, which is commendable since individuals are keen to represent their areas, but there is a risk that people will not want to do this if the areas are any larger.

The new proposals will:

- Lead to the loss of the sense of identity relating to the areas represented, and a lack of knowledge regarding surrounding areas.
- Require councillors to travel further to meetings, contrary to principles of sustainable travel, and making the role of community councillor less attractive.
- Discourage experienced councillors and make them feel that all their hard work has been in vain.
- Lead to councillors claiming their allowances, due to increased costs.
- Make it more likely that meetings will take place online, leading to loss of use of community buildings, which in some cases have involved communities fighting hard to retain ownership of those buildings.
- Lead to longer meetings about many aspects which would be irrelevant to many councillors, leading to a lack of interest.
- Fail to support the Welsh language and our heritage as Welsh speakers in rural areas.
- Fail to relate to rural wards and fail to reflect our areas in a geographically appropriate way.

If community councils must be merged, I urge the boundary commissioner to re-examine the proposals in depth and discuss with current community councils which areas have appropriate socio-economic grounds for merging, for the benefit of those rural areas and the electorate. I repeat, the recommendations to merge Llanfihangel Ystrad with Llanwnnen, and Nantcwnlle with Ciliau Aeron and Cilcennin, do not make any sense at all.

Thank you
Councillor Ceris Jones
Llanfihangel Ystrad Ward
Ceredigion

Ceredigion 102 – [REDACTED] – Llanddewi Brefi

To the Chief Executive, I am writing to oppose the proposed merger of the Community Council wards of Llanddewi-Brefi, Llangybi and Llanfair-Clydogau.

It is beyond my comprehension why such a merger is being considered. I cannot see the actual communities benefitting from this at all. In fact this merger threatens the sustainability and the running of the Community centre and grounds. Much of village life revolves around the Community Centre, the Community cafe, Art group, W.I. the Youth group, The Y.F.C., Dewi Stars football team, the Annual Show, the Carnival, Fireworks night and St. David's day Cawl. Plus other events throughout the year. All this helps make the village the supportive, interesting, vibrant, social community that it is.

I have lived in Llanddewi-Brefi for over thirty years and as I get older I want to be able to stay in Llanddewi-Brefi , and participating as part of the community, is essential in maintaining my wellbeing.

If all this goes, the heart will be ripped from the village.

This proposal effectively lessens our ability to be involved with the decisions affecting our village.

Rural communities especially here in West Wales have been increasingly under threat in recent years, the reduction of public transport, the loss of post offices, banks and shops. This merger is yet another step towards the extinction of the nature, identity and culture of West Wales.

Yours Sincerely [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 103 – Cllr C Huw Jones – Nantcwnlle

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

12 May 2024

Ref: Change-of-Boundaries

I am writing to show my opposition to the draft plan that has been submitted. I have been a Community Councillor representing Nantcwnlle for over fifteen years. I can't see how the merger of Nantcwnlle, Cilcennin and Ciliau Aeron makes sense at all as the new parish is completely unnatural in terms of the naturally occurring connection in the area - it will be very difficult to get people to be councillors. Over the years we have managed to fill up every seat on our Council because of the natural connections in the area.

If it's necessary to create larger councils, I think we need to go back to the start and look at what's working in the different areas. The parish of Nantcwnlle was created from Nantcwnlle, Gartheli and Trefilan. If to create new parishes that merge naturally and use the connections that are natural in the area the best thing would be to split the parish of Nantcwnlle and the wards merge with their neighbours. Nantcwnlle parishioners are happy with Llangeitho and Tregaron. Trefilan parishioners are happy with Ystrad Aeron and Gartheli parishioners are happy with Llanybydder or Llangeitho.

The other option that would make sense is to re-organise into the 61 boundaries of our County Councillors.

It is in the countryside where few people live that more councillors are needed as a ratio than is needed in towns and cities.

This draft plan shows that the Boundary Commission and Local Democracy Wales as the Welsh Government, does not understand the way our rural areas work, and I am not confident that any attention or changes will occur because of the consultation. Another Public Body just ticking the box.

Yours sincerely
C Huw Jones

Ceredigion 104 – [REDACTED] – Llanddewi Brefi

Dear Sir/Madam,

I strongly object to the proposed boundary change for Llanddewi Brefi parish.

Reducing the number of councillors from 10 to 4 moves important local decision making outside the area of our parish.

Llanddewi Brefi Parish has been successful in acquiring a number of grants and has used these to the benefit of the whole community. In particular, inclusive events have been held regularly over the past few years that have brought together all sections of the community. I feel that only having 4 councillors with a wider remit will dilute their ability to focus on our village.

Our councillors work as village hall / community centre / playing field trustees and also manage the village cemetery which is a considerable time commitment.

Our local councillors are unpaid volunteers and do not seem to be difficult to recruit. It is therefore difficult to see what benefit there will be in reducing their numbers and making them cover a larger area that is unfamiliar to them. The reduction in numbers and distancing the village decision making process will be detrimental to our successful parish council and will subsequently have a negative impact on village life in my opinion.

I urge you to reconsider this ill conceived idea and leave our democratically elected parish council unchanged.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

(Village resident)

Ceredigion 105 – [REDACTED] (Clerk) – Llanrhystud Community Council

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please see attached letters from members of Llanrhystud Community that were received too late to be sent by post to you for arrival on Monday.

Cofion / Regards

[REDACTED]

(Clerk to Llanrhystud Community Council)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
10-05-2024

Chief Executive
Local Democracy and Boundary Commission Wales
Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
Cardiff
CF24 0BL

Dear Sir

**Re: Local Democracy and boundary Commission for Wales - Draft
Proposals Report /Proposed Changes affecting Llanrhystud Community
(Deiniol, Haminiog & Myfenydd wards)**

With reference to the above proposed boundary changes we would comment as follows:

- By reducing the number of Community Councillors in the community It is difficult to see how the Commission has "considered the need for electoral parity and democratic fairness for all electors"
- As the wards in question are geographically rural in nature with a widely dispersed, demographically older population, it is more important than ever that representation is maintained.
- How will a 64% reduction in the number of Community Councillors ensure that community statutory responsibilities are carried out effectively?
- What shared local identity is it that links Llanrhystud to Capel Seion or Llanbadarn, more than to say Llangwryfon, for example?
- Furthermore, how exactly does this proposed Community "continue to reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government?"
- Over the last few years there has been increasing difficulty in getting nominations for people wishing to be Community Councillors.
- If therefore, there is a reduction in councillor numbers, there will be greater responsibility placed on the shoulders of the few.
- Additionally, as Community Councillors have always functioned on a voluntary basis, it is conceivable that even fewer or none would want to be councillors if the proposed changes are enforced.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 107 - [REDACTED] - Llanrhystud

FAO Chief Executive, Local Democracy and Boundary Commission, Wales

Re. The Proposed Changes to Llanrhystud Community Council .

..I strongly object to the proposed changes for the following reasons.

1. There is no reason for any change since Llanrhystud has 803 electors , in accordance with current CCC policy.
2. The Commission state that the proposed changes are "to ensure that communities continue to reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government across the principal council area . "

In fact the proposal does the opposite ..it reduces our representation

from 10 Councillors to 3 , a 64% reduction in our community councillors .

3. Llanfarian Community will have have 5 Community councilors so our 3 will always be in the minority when resources are being considered , or when concerns need to be addressed , which plainly is not democratic.
- 4.
5. It reduces our own community identity by combining us with Llanfarian Community which is not our 'local community'
A 'combined community' is not a 'local community' except on paper.
6. As our County Council it is your responsibility to ensure that you represent and value the views of local people about their local area.

I hope that our views will be given the consideration and importance which is essential if you want people to be interested , active , and concerned about their local community and identity.

If they are not , and people feel they are being disenfranchised for no reason , community spirit which is so important especially in difficult times is reduced , and people feel even more alienated and distanced from the County Council.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 108 – Cllr Catrin M S Davies – Ceulan and Maesmawr Ward

Dear colleague,

I write to you as a County Councillor representing the current (county) electoral ward of Ceulan and Maesmawr and as a community councillor on the current Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council. The comments refer to your points in your report following your numbers or page number:

Pg 3. the requirement to ensure that communities continue to reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government. As a result of any changes to community boundaries or community wards, the Commission has also considered the need for electoral equality and democratic fairness for all voters.

Suggestions for Ceulanamaesmawr, Llangynfelyn and Ysgubor y Coed community councils generally undermine electoral equality and democratic fairness. If the suggestions are realised, they will not reflect local identities or facilitate effective and convenient local government.

178. *The Commission proposes to abolish the existing communities of Ceulan and Maesmawr, Llangynfelyn and Ysgubor-y-coed and use the 3 areas to form the new community of Ceulan and Maesmawr. The existing boundaries will be used to form the new community wards of Ceulan and Maesmawr, Llangynfelyn, and Ysgubor-y-coed. The Commission considers that the proposal provides for more effective and convenient local government at the same time as providing a clear boundary.*

I must disagree with the principle in this point - removing representation from this wide area from 27 to 7 isn't going to mean more effective or convenient local government. I know the whole area and to be able to represent it accurately I rely heavily on the knowledge of the existing community councillors. These councillors represent all corners of their areas campaigning to improve their communities, attract more resources, maintain public areas, and secure every service possible. There is a Warm Place to prevent loneliness in every single community council here with councillors at the forefront of maintaining them - that reflects the councillors' care for their communities.

There are campaigns for speed prevention, safety improvement, biodiversity protection and promotion, community pride and active travel.

Current community councillors know their areas well and can report any requirements or difficulties with road services including reporting roads to the North and Mid Wales Highways Agency and Ceredigion County Council; water including flooding and sewage reporting to Welsh Water; enquiries to CADW, Transport for Wales, RSPB and more.

Reducing the number of existing councils, expanding the geographical size of the proposed council and reducing the number of councillors will be a disaster in terms of fair representation for the people of this area.

A larger, wider, more diverse community council will mean a wider range of challenges, more applications and enquiries; more assets to look after and ultimately more pressure on limited resources - and then - fewer advisers to do the job - a surprisingly monstrous idea. Councillors will have an area too large to represent, resulting in locations and topics in that area being forgotten.

13.05.24

187. The proposed community council arrangements at the new Ceulan and Maesmawr community council are proposed to include a total of 1,560 constituents represented by 7 community councillors.

I assume a study of the geographical areas was done before these suggestions were made and looking at maps it could be seen that this is a 50 square mile area and to suggest that 7 people can represent that at community level makes no sense at all. This may be possible in a municipal or urban area but it's not possible in a rural area like this.

It is fair to ask whether the Commission understands very rural areas, and whether this was an exercise at a civic desk, looking at maps, counting the number of residents, and drawing lines on paper. Everyone who lives in a very rural area deserves the same representation as the population of a municipal area, but I can't see this happening under this scheme.

For example - asking only one person to represent the very rural ward of Ysgubor- y -Coed is an impossible task as one must be familiar with everyone and every service and enjoyment, and any faults from Glaspwll to Lodge Park, from the Dyfi to Cwm Einion, and more which means some 30 miles. (To give you some idea - that's further than the journey from your office to Hirwaun.)

It will be a difficult enough task for 4 councillors to represent the current Ceulanamaesmawr ward trying to get from Nant y Moch almost to Bow St, and from there to Pontgoch. There are miles of roads within the catchment area and problems arise on a weekly basis.

Specific points

176. The Commission received 1 representation relating to the Community of Ceulan and Maesmawr by Ceulan and Maesmawr Community Council, and 1 representation relating to the Community of Ysgubor-y-coed by Ysgubor-y-coed Community Council. The representations have been published on [the Commission's website](#).

I think this is completely unfair and misleading - referring to letters written by Community Council Chairs on behalf of the whole Council (and therefore the community) as 1 representation belittles their significance. They are not 1 representation at all.

177. The Commission proposes to make 4 changes to the existing boundaries, which include the transfer of areas between the following community areas:

- Creation of the new community of Ceulan and Maesmawr

What exactly is suggested here? The community of Ceulan and Maesmawr already exists. That's called Ceulan and Maesmawr Community Council.

*183. As a result of these proposals, the Commission proposes to retain the English community's name **Ceulanamaesmawr** and the Welsh community name **Ceulan and Maesmawr**, as prescribed in the County of Ceredigion (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2021. The Commission considers that the name Ceulan and Maesmawr should be assigned to the new combined community area because that is the larger and more recognisable name included in the proposals*

To the attention of the Boundary and Local Democracy Commission for Wales

13.05.24

What exactly is suggested here? Ceulanamaesmawr is not the name of an English community but the name of Ceulan and Maesmawr Community Council. The community's name Ceulan and Maesmawr already exists - that's what the county electoral ward is called - which is the ward I represent on Ceredigion County Council. Proposing two versions of the same name - one in Welsh and the other in English is disingenuous and will lead to total confusion given that "Ceulanamaesmawr" already exists.

*186. As a result of these proposals, the Commission proposes to retain the existing English community name **Ceulanamaesmawr** and the Welsh community name **Ceulan and Maesmawr** as a new ward name, as prescribed in the County of Ceredigion (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2021.*

As above there is a lack of understanding of the current situation - specifically the county situation. Further - your use of Ceulan and Maesmawr is completely confusing and misleading. If someone chose to search for comments about Ceulanamaesmawr (which is the current Community Council) and did a search by the correct name "Ceulanamaesmawr" it would be difficult to find out your suggestions for the current community council. One could question the whole premise of the recommendations re Ceulanamaesmawr if the name is not correct.

184. As a result of these proposals the Commission proposes to retain the English community name of Ceulanamaesmawr and the Welsh community name of Ceulan a Maesmawr as prescribed in the County of Ceredigion (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2021.

Again - proposing two similar but distinct names for Welsh and English shows a complete lack of understanding of the current situation and of the patterns of Welsh and English in this area. It will definitely lead to a confusion between the community council ward and the county electoral ward.

The purpose of these comments about the names is not to pick on minor wrinkles but to show a lack of understanding of this area and community. Which shocks one to think who has compiled this from a report.

To the attention of the Boundary and Local Democracy Commission for Wales

13.05.24

In conclusion

188. The Commission notes that the council size policy introduced by Ceredigion County Council would mean that the proposed Community of Ceulan and Maesmawr would have the right to a council with 7 members, which would improve the variance across the county. The Commission has offered advice with 7 members, in accordance with the Council Size Policy. The proposed councillor allocation addresses the democratic deficit in vacant and unopposed seats.

It is difficult to see how reducing the number of councillors improves variance. As for the lack of empty seats - 3 community councils within the county ward of Ceulan and Maesmawr have a good tradition of having full seats each term. Cutting the number of councillors from 27 to 7 is going to create a democratic (democracy?) deficit rather than solve it.

I'm worried that potential councillors won't be with us if these changes come into force as it won't be possible for councillors to have a real sense of area and neighbourhood – which is what makes them effective councillors now.

I ask you - kindly - to revisit your suggestions for this area bearing in mind that the county ward Ceulanamaesmawr is the second most rural/dispersed in Ceredigion.
7 community councillors can't serve it effectively.

Yours sincerely,

Catrin

Catrin M S Davies



CATRIN M S DAVIES
Cynghorydd / Councillor



📍 Ward Ceulan a Maesmawr



Ceredigion 109 – [REDACTED] – Ysbyty Ystwyth

Hello.

With regards to the proposed community council and ward boundary changes and as a resident of Pont-rhyd-y-groes I OBJECT to the proposed village/ward merger and reduction of local representatives. The current number of individuals within the community council represents and protects the community, ensuring no 'conflict of interest' regarding our community affairs.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 110 – [REDACTED] – Llangybi

Dear Sirs

I have read the report of the Boundary Commission for Wales concerning the proposed new district within which it is referred to as Llandewi Brefi

I am concerned that the proposed area has been identified by a mathematical calculation rather than any degree of local knowledge.

As a resident of SILIAN which is located to the western edge of LLANGYBI ward, I fail to understand how the hamlet in which I reside could benefit from this amalgamation in any degree.

Your own proposal document within its forward, refers to 'LOCAL identity' and the ability to 'facilitate LOCAL government'. How your proposal might achieve this where the predominantly elderly population, completely lacking in any form of public transport, could be expected to travel the twelve-odd miles from Silian to attend public meetings might be referred to as 'facilitating local government' is beyond my understanding.

Silian, as currently a part of Llangybi ward benefits from a wide variety of extra-curricular activities, strongly supported by its residents. It is also true to say that all these activities have been generated with the wholehearted support & encouragement of Llangybi Community Council.

These activities include but are not limited to ;

A large number of residents being responsible for the management of common land in the centre of the hamlet.

A dedicated team protecting & feeding birds within the hamlet.

A group growing fruit & vegetables which can be accessed by the residents and others free of charge.

A free-to-access library offering deposit & withdrawal facilities for books.

Silian is awarded Green Flag status due to the environmentally responsible manner in which it maintains the common area in the centre of the hamlet. The awarding authority is Keep Wales Tidy. A further application for inclusion in the scheme is under consideration for 2024/25 currently.

The community has raised funding for the provision of a defibrillator together with professional training in its use.

Community events such as Bar-B-Q & musical evening are held throughout the summer months.

The writer seriously doubts if similar initiatives would generate equal levels of support from your new, amalgamated body mainly due to geography where Silian & Llangybi gravitate to Lampeter whilst Llandewi Brefi naturally errs in the direction of Tregaron.

For these reasons I would respectfully request that serious consideration be given to a a more realistic alternative proposition.

I remain

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 111 – [REDACTED] (Clerk) – Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council

Dear [REDACTED],

Atodaf ymateb Cyngor Cymuned Ceulanamaesmawr i'r trefniadau arfaethedig.

Attached is the Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council response to the proposed new arrangements.

Yn gywir/*Regards*

[REDACTED]

Clerc/Clerk

Cyngor Cymuned Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council

[REDACTED]



For the attention of the Boundary and Local Democracy Commission for Wales:
Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council's response

I would like to note Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council's opposition to the proposed boundary changes and mergers of Ceulanamaesmawr, Llangynfelyn and Ysgubor-y-Coed councils. Such a change raises concerns about under-representation in some areas, particularly in the north of the county, with only one councillor representing the current Ysgubor-y-Coed ward, two representing Llangynfelyn and four in Ceulanamaesmawr.

Ceulanamaesmawr currently has 11 councillors who are very active in the local community – members of the Tal-y-bont Show committee, the Memorial Hall committee, YFC, the youth club, Tal-y-bont Flooders Group, etc. – doing all this unpaid. They have a close connection with the local area and its people and are interested in what happens there. Reducing the number to four councillors for the area would mean the loss of dedicated, hard-working individuals and significantly increase their workload.

The report and the Commission's overall duty are intended to "seek to ensure effective and convenient local government". There is reason to ask whether the proposed changes will create an effective system – won't councillors' lack of exposure to their square mile compromise the councillor's ability to be effective? The councillors will have too large a geographical area to represent, which will result in locations and topics in that area being forgotten. For example, will a Bont-goch councillor really know Glaspwll well enough to be able to give an opinion on a planning application, or ensure that the roads are in an acceptable condition? Will a Tal-y-bont councillor be so willing to discuss details of roads and amenities in Glandyfi without having the relevant local knowledge?

In areas like this where local councillors serve their community, there is a high risk that those people will not stand as potential councillors. This is the feeling among current Ceulanamaesmawr councillors – councillors with a real sense of area and neighbourhood services, and this is a strange feeling in a community council that has always filled every seat with ease.

At a time when there is more demand on the community councils, for example to take responsibility for local resources such as toilets, cutting growth along roadsides, etc., we need as many councillors as possible so that sub-committees can be created to look after the different elements of the work. Ceulanamaesmawr Council has a Cemetery Committee, a Cae Bach Committee, a Finance Committee, a Planning Committee and a Policies Committee, all of which require members to serve. It would be a foolish to reduce the number of councillors on one hand, and to increase the size of the area they are responsible for on the other. There seems to be a lack of understanding of very rural areas, and that this was an exercise at a city desk, looking at maps, counting the number of inhabitants, and drawing lines in a mathematical way. Everyone who lives in a very rural area deserves the same representation as the population of a municipal area, but this will not happen under the new scheme.

A larger, wider, more diverse community council will mean a wider range of challenges, more applications and queries to consider; more assets to manage, putting more pressure on limited resources and fewer councillors. A significantly larger new ward will limit the ability of any representative to be fully involved in any discussion as the business of the new

community council becomes more extensive, and reaching consensus could be much more difficult. Planning applications from residents in our remote areas will be difficult for councillors to refer to and comment on.

The current work of Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council includes the following:

- Consultation on planning applications.
- Supporting local initiatives and events by providing financial sponsorship to several local bodies.
- Supervising and organising any work on the Cae Bach and Bontgoch play park.
- Organising and supervising the cutting of grass and hedgerows in the area, including the Patshyn Glas, playing fields and cemeteries.
- Maintenance of Tal-y-bont cemetery and Tabernacl and Nazareth chapel cemeteries.
- Various work to ensure biodiversity.
- Looking after bus shelters.
- Providing and maintaining the website of the Council and the community of paramount importance in such a rural area;
- Providing and maintaining billboards for the distribution of public information.
- Provision and maintenance of six defibrillators for public use.
- Supervising local facilities such as street lighting and road conditions.
- Monitor and report problems to the North and Mid Wales Traffic Agency and Ceredigion County Council on the six roads run by the County Council, the A487 and the smaller roads in the ward.
- Looking after public footpaths.
- Monitoring and maintaining local public benches.

This level of care and attention to detail would be lost if there were only four representatives campaigning for Tal-y-bont, Bont-goch and the wider area on the Community Council of a much larger area.

In addition, a Council committee is currently raising funds to renovate the Cae Bach, which is the Tal-y-bont play park. Almost £13 thousand has already been raised and several events are planned for the coming months. As part of this, families, parents and children had to be consulted about what they would like to see in the new playground.

The Cwtsh Cynnes is also hosted by the Community Council – a weekly event at Tal-y-bont Memorial Hall which is much more than just a cuppa on a Tuesday morning. Most of those who go there are elderly people living alone, and some have been heard saying that this is the only time they get a chance to talk to others in the village.

Currently, the Community Council perfectly meets one of the Commission's requirements, which is that it serves a population of approximately 800 residents – a point made in the Council's response to the initial consultation. The formation of a single community Council would mean looking after a population in a rural area of 50 square miles; runs from Ynyslas in the west to Nant y Moch Reservoir in the east, and from Maesnewydd in the south to the Powys border in the north.



Clerk

Ceredigion 112 - [REDACTED] - Llangeitho

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

May 6, 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to you as a constituent of Llangeitho Ward in Ceredigion to say that I disagree with your recommendation of a merger of Llangeitho ward and Llangwryfon and Lledrod wards.

From my point of view, this recommendation is impractical, as the size of the ward is too large, and the travel from one end of the other is excessive. There is very little knowledge and interest in what happens in Llangwryfon and Lledrod from Llangeitho ward, and the Llangwryfon and Lledrod wards can probably say the same about Llangeitho.

I would also like to ask how exactly the recommendation of merging Llangeitho with Llangwryfon and Lledrod was reached. Looking at your maps of other proposed wards, the ratio of councillors to electors is inconsistent, which would affect representation and fairness to constituents across the area. Can there please be an answer to this question, which is how your figures were arrived at in terms of the ratio of councillors to constituents.

Your proposal of merging Llangeitho, Llangwryfon and Lledrod is therefore awkward, inconsistent and unfair, and shows complete ignorance of the geographical, social and linguistic nature of these areas.

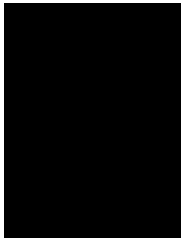
Wouldn't it be better to keep the boundaries as they are, and I support the idea of removing part of Nantcwnlle ward into Llangeitho ward and take the opportunity to bring the rest of Penuwch village into Llangeitho ward. This would mean that Penuwch residents receive a level playing field of resources and representation on the same ward and mean that the size of the ward in terms of constituents crosses the threshold of 800 electors within one ward.

I trust you can also answer the above question I asked.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



6 May 2024,

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to write to you to say that I completely disagree with your recommendation for changing the boundaries of our current ward, and creating a ward that includes Llangwryfon and Lledrod. For one thing, I feel that you have made this recommendation in complete ignorance of the historical, geographical, linguistic and social nature of the area. I feel that your recommended new ward is one that will be problematic for constituents and councillors and make representing the area difficult and ineffective.

Was the intention of changing boundaries to make the running of the area more effective? If so, I feel that the size of the area would make it impossible to do the job effectively. Llangwryfon and Lledrod wards naturally see Aberystwyth as their main town, while Llangeitho turns towards Tregaron and Lampeter.

As a first response to the Boundary Commission, we provided a recommendation of keeping the boundary of the Llangeitho ward as it is, comprising the parishes of Gwynfil, Llanbadarn Odwyn and Penuwch. One modification we proposed was to draw the rest of the town of Penuwch into the ward, which is the part represented by the Nantcwnlle ward. I still feel that, like the rest of the Community Council, this is the best solution, as it ensures that the whole of Penuwch come under the same ward, and that the number of electors within the ward crosses your recommended threshold of 800 electors. It is a ward represented by Councillors who know their area and know what is good for the area and its constituents.

Your faithfully,





Dear Boundary Commission.

I wish to make known my views on the amalgamation of Llangeitho Community council with Lledrod and Llangwyrfon Councils.

I wish to protest about this decision.

The twelve councillors representing Llangeitho CC work very hard and tirelessly, free of charge because of their commitment to their wards. If we amalgamate our representation would go down to four and would mean them having to travel alternately all the way to Lledrod and Llangwyrfon for regular meetings. This may cause the councillors to claim their travel allowance which they do not at the moment, as they usually walk to their local community meetings. I think this extra use of cars has an impact on our environment.

I do not wish for the above amalgamation to happen.

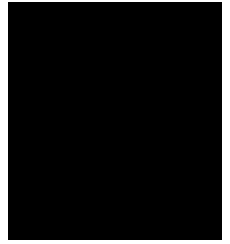
I think a better amalgamation would be between Llandewi Brefi and Llangeitho as they have more in common and are close to each other. Llandewi Brefi and Llangeitho already have the same County Councillor, Rhodri Evans. Who looks after both Community Council areas.

Yours Faithfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 115 – [REDACTED] – Llangeitho



Boundary Commission,
Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
Cardiff CF24 0BL

Dear Chief Executive,

I do not agree with your suggestion to merge Llangeitho, Lledrod and Llangwyrfon Ward as Tregaron catchment services are more relevant to Llangeitho. The catchment area of Lledrod and Llangwyrfon services is more about the Aberystwyth area. Joining these three Wards is not going to work because of the above reason. Please keep as is.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 116 – [REDACTED] – Llangeitho



01.05.2024

Chief Executive.

Welsh Boundary and Democracy Commission

Dear Sir

Following a boundary commission review, I suspect annual costs would increase significantly due to the boundary between Llangeitho and Llangwyrfon.

The Llanbadarn Odwyn, Llangeitho and Penuwch ward councillors are currently doing excellent unpaid work in their community. If the recommendation was to merge Llangeitho and Llangwyrfon and Lledrod the travel costs would surely increase significantly due to the increase in mileage.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

Having been made aware of the intended boundary changes in Ceredigion I would like to express my dismay at the draft proposals.

The present plans for changing the county wards totally disregard the historical communities and allegiances which have worked well in the past. Over many years a sense of togetherness has developed and helped the Welsh language and culture to flourish.

The joy and exuberance of hosting the National Eisteddfod in Tregaron in 2022 can still be seen and felt in all the surrounding villages. Llangeitho, Bronant et al still display art created by the local primary school children as well as flower displays and numerous samples of 'jam bombing'.

I hope the above will help to reconsider the arbitrary boundary changes suggested in your proposals.

Yours faithfully,

Dear Sir/Madam

I think that the proposed changes to merge Llangeitho, Uedrod and Llanguyryfon wards are impractical and undesirable.

Going by my experience of the relatively recent changes from parishes to one large LMA (local ministry area) I fear that local concerns will be overlooked or pushed aside due to financial constraints.

At present Llangeitho Church receives small amounts of funding to help with up keep of the cemetery in the form of fuel for the lawn mower, help from landscape gardeners to tend to the trees, as well as bits and bobs for the general upkeep of church grounds, all of these tasks eat away at our meagre resources.

I fear if we were to become one part of a large ward those small but welcome charitable gifts will disappear along with our feelings of being rooted in this very community.

Best Wishes

[REDACTED]

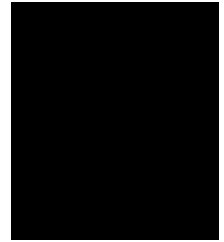
08.04.2024

Dear Sir

Having been made aware of the intended boundary changes in Ceredigion, I would like to express my dismay at the proposals. At present local clubs etc benefit from Llangelltho council. I fear if we were to become one part of a large ward those small but welcome charitable gifts will disappear.

Yours Faithfully

Ceredigion 120 – [REDACTED] – Llangeitho



02-04-2024

Chief Executive

Dear Sir / Madam

Reading the local paper on the merger of Llangeitho with Llangwryfon and Lledrod, I do not agree with this because travel costs will increase and Llangwryfon and Lledrod councillors will not be giving us their time in Llangeitho as our local councillors in Llangeitho.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

20/5/2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Ward boundary changes

I am most disconcerted by the Boundary Commission's recommendations for the future Ceredigion Community Council.

In particular the idea of merging Llangeitho, Hledro and Llangwryston Wards is more than astounding as in the past there have been closer links between our communities of Llangeitho, Hledro, Llanyddog, Penmach and Hledro to the south.

I fail to see the logic in splitting well established groups that share common historical roots by creating new wards where even the Welsh dialect varies.

Furthermore, unless the socio-economic background of the new population is compatible with each other, I fail to see how the precept, in this new ward can be calculated, budgeted for and added fairly to the electors council tax.

Yours faithfully [REDACTED]

Ceredigion 122 - Phyllis Davies – Llangeitho



02 May2024

Chief Executive
Boundary and Local Democracy Commission for Wales
Hastings House
Fitzalan
Court
CARDIFF
CF24 0BL

Dear Chief Executive

Ceredigion Community Survey 2024

I am writing to you as a constituent in the Llangeitho Ward of Ceredigion in response to your Draft Proposals.

I'm disappointed to read that your proposal is that Llangeitho Ward merge with Lledrod Ward and Llangwryfyon Ward. As someone who has always lived in the village of Llangeitho I have absolutely no memory of any natural relationship between Llangeitho and the other two areas.

Merging these wards would only disrupt the close relationship of the ward's constituents and their community councillors. We can turn to our councillors knowing they understand our problems, know their area well and are always ready to assist us. I cannot foresee this happening when you cut the numbers of councillors in the three wards from 29 to 9 with local democracy suffering.

The meetings are currently being held within reach of anyone from the ward to attend and listen to what is being discussed but that would not be so easy and accessible when the meetings are being held in a completely unknown area and over 10 miles from Llangeitho village centre but further for people living outside the village and at the far end of Llangeitho Ward

This would also mean more people using their cars to attend meetings which will adversely affect the environment and surroundings that are so important to people these days. It is also possible that the councillors would claim the £150 they are eligible for; this would add significantly to the running cost of the community council as none of Llangeitho Ward's current councillors claim this money.

There are many more reasons I could list in my letter but for now I would like to see you leave the Ward as it is and if you have to join another community council, I think the sensible option is to join Llanddewi Brefi Ward, a similar area in terms of people and quite a bit more familiar to us historically. This would also ensure that an identical County ward and a community ward are serviced by the same County Councillor rather than drawing 3 County councillors to each community meeting as your proposal would require.

I trust you will read my letter and consider its contents.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam,

6th May 2024.

I write this important letter to inform you I strongly object to the proposal by the Boundary Commission to merge Llangeitho Community Council with Lledrod & Llangwryfan Community Councils.

The above proposal in my opinion is not effective or convenient by any means, causing Community Councillors to travel to meetings in excess of up to 20 miles each way. This cannot be good for our local environment either. Even if zoom meetings are held, this could be very awkward as our network is not very efficient in this rural area.

I completely agree with Llangeitho Community Council's proposal of staying as they are, that is Gwynfil, Llanbadarn Odern & Penwch wards but including all of Penwch with them as it is currently split between Nantcundle and Llangeitho Community Councils at present. I believe 'the heart' of our community is at risk if our boundaries are drastically changed. We could loose our strong

'Community spirit' which allows our community to flourish. I personally contribute my time, interests & efforts locally on various community meeting, projects & functions including Llanbadarn Odwyn Church, Llangetho Show Committee, Stagshead and Penruch defibrillator groups, Rhoshelyg School, Cylch Meithrin Llangetho & Llangetho Community Council. I am not alone saying we need to keep our community alive & thriving for many years to come.

Another option that may be considered by the Boundary Commission is for Llangetho Community Council to join Llanddewi Brefi Community Council. Geographically we are not far from each other which would save time & money, therefore more cost effective.

I believe our farms and also local businesses are all at risk if we do not protect and save our local effective and convenient Llangetho Community Council as it is now, including Gwynfil, Llanbadarn Odwyn and Penruch (as a whole) wards. I hope you reconsider your proposal.

Yours sincerely,



[REDACTED]
May 6th, 2024

Boundary and Local Democracy Commission for
Wales,
Hastings House,
Fitzalan Court,
Cardiff
CF25 OBL

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Ceredigion Community Review/ Llangeitho Community Council

I am writing in response to the draft proposal to expand the Llangeitho community council area to include the communities of Lledrod and Llangwryfon within a new community council.

An existing arrangement of the villages of Llangeitho, Llanbadarn Odwyn together and about half of Penuwch village works well. Council members all live close by and are genuinely interested in their area. There is a sense of unity and collaboration between the three areas and the council is successful.

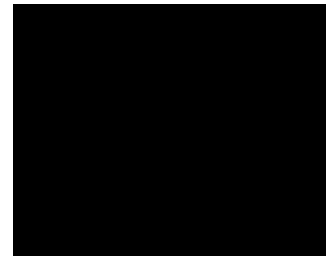
There is no geographical or community connection with the Lledrod and Llangwryfon area. Community Council intends to work for the community and to be on the ground to help the area. There is no connection between these areas and therefore how can a Community Council member have the same endurance and enthusiasm for an area unfamiliar to him. This could create friction and create Community Councils that don't work successfully.

Accepting that the County Council wants to reduce the number of Community Councils, the interests of Llangeitho, Llanbadarn Odwyn and Penuwch would be best served by putting almost half of Penuwch which is currently within the Nantcwnlle Community area into the Llangeitho Community Council area. This would unite the remote properties and village of Penuwch which naturally adjoins Llangeitho as well as increasing the electorate in the Llangeitho community council area.

A community council should represent a geographically unified community and not be placed with other geographically unconnected councils.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



2 May 2024

Chief Executive
Boundary and Local Democracy Commission for
Wales
Ground Floor,
Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
Cardiff
CF24 OBL

Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to express my disappointment at the proposed joining of Llangeitho Community Council with Llangwryfon and Lledrod. Historically the three communities have not worked closely, they are not close in distance either especially from Llangeitho to Llanwryfon. The financial cost of travelling between the communities would be an additional burden to the precept, as well as the additional costs of the clerk to administer over three communities instead of one. I am worried at the loss of Llangeitho's recognition as an area within a close-knit community comprising Penuwch and Llanbadarn Odwyn wards, which will not have the same level playing field in the future under the Boundary Commission's proposal.

I urge you to re-consider and failing that you should seriously consider proposing that Llangeitho Community Council joins Llanddewi Brefi, which is much closer.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5 May 2024

Chief Executive
Boundary and Local Democracy Commission for
Wales
Ground Floor,
Hastings House
Fitzalan Court Cardiff
CF24 OBL

Dear Sir/Madam

On what basis does the Boundary Commission think it is a good idea to merge three community councils, Llangeitho, Penuwch and Lledrod, into one? For what purpose? I can't see anything good about the proposal. Much larger physical area, more constituents yet far fewer community councillors to administer. There will be no fairness locally to things that happen in Penuwch, Gwynfil and Llanbadarn Odwyn wards and I'm sure the Llangwryfon and Lledrod areas will feel the same way. There will be three Young Farmers Clubs for example within the new community council, they can't all have the same support. This is just one example, I'm sure there are many more.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

4 May 2024

Chief Executive
Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales
Ground Floor,
Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
Cardiff
CF24 OBL

Dear Sir/Madam

I feel that the proposal by the Boundary Commission to merge Llangeitho Community Council with Lledrod and Llangwryfon will harm the villages currently within the community. There is no history of the three wards working together, since Llangwryfon and Lledrod tend to look to Aberystwyth for services, and Llangeitho to Tregaron.

Penuwch, Stag's Head and Llwynpiod will lose their identity completely under this proposal. Llangeitho Community Council currently supports our local associations in every way – the nursery school, the primary school, Young Farmers, in addition to maintaining a playground for children etc. Will they receive the same fair play in the future from councillors representing Llangwryfon and Lledrod? I highly doubt it, and this could affect our local community. Our community needs to be protected, not destroyed. It would be good if you could reconsider your proposal.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Llangeitho
Tregaron
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Llangeitho
Tregaron
[REDACTED]

5 May 2024

Chief Executive
Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales
Ground Floor, Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
Cardiff
CF24 0BL

Dear Sir/Madam

I understand that the Boundary Commission is proposing to merge three Community councils, namely Llangwryfon, Llangwryfon and Lledrod. Why? There would be no great savings in terms of costs, in fact it may cost more if councillors claim £150 per year or more (which they do not, currently) and the clerk claims costs for increased travel between the areas and increased hours of work to keep the three wards in order.

Fewer councillors covering a larger area will mean more pressure and more work for them, bearing in mind that they give their time voluntarily. Councillors will spend more time on community council work due to the significant reduction in their numbers, and the substantial increase in the physical area covered and the number of electors.

This could lead to problems with electing councillors because people may not want the extra work with an area that is unfamiliar to them. Bear in mind that councillors are already busy with their daily work and often support other community associations.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Llangeitho
Tregaron
[REDACTED]

2 May 2024

Chief Executive
Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales
Ground Floor, Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
Cardiff
CF24 OBL

Dear Sir/Madam

It is most disappointing to hear that you are proposing to dissolve Llangeitho Community Council as it currently exists. Creating a larger community council would mean loss of recognition and identity for our area. I am concerned about fairness for our area within a community council that has no knowledge of our square mile due to the distance between us. I am sure that the residents of Llangwryfon and Lledrod feel the same about their areas too.

Why go to such expense when everything works fine as it is?

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear sir

As a pensionier I am worried that my whole life will change due to your ideas, I cannot understand why the need for change, due to saving money because the Parish Councillors do not get paid anything for their services and I know it's true due to my son being on the Penwch parish for over 30 years. I can't work out how can you save money when you don't spend any in the beginning.

The people that are on the Parish Council I've known them for many years and I know that I can talk to any of them and get a response, if we join other parishes I will lose that service.

Yours

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 131 - [REDACTED] - Llangeitho

[REDACTED]

Dear sir

I'm writing to you in regard with the change of the Local Council Boundary change that you are thinking of implementing.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that as things stand at present we have 1 County Councillor, if you do the changes there would be 3 councillors, this seems a waste of the tax payers money. Also you've decided to merge Llangeitho/Penuwch/Llwynpiod community council with Llangwyrfon, Bronant and Lledrod community council, I would think that the councillors in our area are not familiar with Llangwyrfon/Bronant/Lledrod area as their councillors are not familiar with our area due to the 15 miles distance between Llangeitho and Llangwyrfon.

I would urge you to reconsider your decision and leave our Community Council as it is.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Dear sir

I am writing to you due to being worried about the planned change to the Community Council boundaries.

I live in the village of Llangeitho and know all the Community Councillors and I know that I can go to any one of them for advice or if there is a problem in the area. As I understand things you would reduce the number of councillors that cover the Parish of Llangeitho and bring councillors from another area who would not have any knowledge of the area or of me, this is very worrying.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir

I live in the parish of Gwynfil, Llangeitho and do not understand why you would want to change the boundaries of the Community Councils.

Outside my house there were 7 potholes, I contacted my local councillor and the problem was solved straight away when he contacted the County Councillor for our area, Mr Rhodri Evans.

I feel that I would loose the contact between parish councillor and the county councillor due to the fact that I would be dealing with a parish councillor who would live 12 -18 miles away and would not have any local nollage of my area, he would probable look after his own area first as we would be on the bottom of the list.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

3/5/2024

Dear Madam, Sir,

We are so lucky to live in a beautiful rural area steeped in history. Maybe because of its low population, strong local connections still exist. This can foster a happy, healthy community which then supports the people, way of life, and cultural heritage of the area.

Cornerstones helping to hold this together can be the local primary school, church, shop etc., and of course, the Community Council. It is essential to have very local representation to pass on the 'niggles' of daily life, (pot holes etc.) and the larger, more serious business, whatever that may be.

Good LOCAL community councillors should be the conduit for passing information along the chain and back again. They know the area. They know what actually needs attending to, or which group needs a small grant etc., rather than wasteful ideas coming from a distance.

Talking about distance, boundaries in the past were determined by the geography of the area – for example a river could form part of the border. Sensible eh? And the area were kept small enough so that everyone who wished to could approach a councillor face to face, or attend a local meeting. Surely this is one of the first rungs on the ladder of a strong 'built' democracy? This is so easily destroyed, but took literally ages to strive for and build.

Clearing away things of worth which cost little is not usually seen as progress.

Please, given the ebb and flow of life, it would seem massively rash to do away with a system that can work so well for no serious reasons.

We need our very local democracy.

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 136 - [REDACTED] - Llangeitho

To The Secretary

LDBCW

Hastings House

Cardiff

CF24 OBL

02/05/24

Having looked at the proposed changes to the community council wards in my area I wish to make the following points:

I understand the need to improve the overall service provided by community councils and the need to modernise. However new area is extremely large geographically and the reduction of community councillors will undoubtedly have a negative effect.

Each part of the community needs to feel represented and be able to approach a local community councillor when required, preferably a person who lives in your village or local community.

The current Llangeitho community council has operated efficiently for many years and our property is located in the Penuwch Community Ward which currently has 4 councillors.

I have always thought it odd that the village of Penuwch is split in effect between 3 different councils at present- Llansanffraed/Nantcwnlle and Llangeitho. This has always been an issue especially when there was a problem in the area e.g. when the future of the local primary school was being decided. It is noted that if new boundaries are imposed this situation would remain.

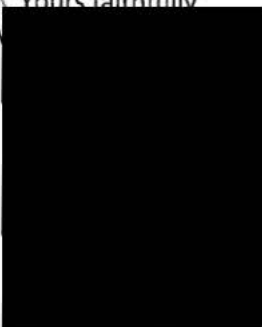
Therefore I would like the number of councillors representing each ward to be slightly higher to ensure each community within a ward has fair representation and a voice on the council.

The whole of Penuwch Village should be included in the Llangeitho Ward as this would make sense and would be beneficial for the council and for community cohesion.

It would be a good idea if the local authority had a Community Council Officer that assisted each community council with any training and use of technology and applications for funding for community projects etc.

I will await the final decision in due course.

Yours faithfully



May 4th, 2024

To the Boundary Commission

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your proposals regarding the re-organisation of Community Councils in Ceredigion, and that of Llangeitho Community Council in particular.

In general, I am disappointed with your proposals across Ceredigion to nearly halve the number of Community Councils and Councillors by forming large, distant areas where residents will have no affinity to and no interest in.

With regards to Llangeitho Community Council, I must object to your proposal to merge this with that of Lledrod and Llangwyrfon to form the new large Llangeitho Community Council. My objections are because the new Community Council will not be efficient nor convenient nor effective.

It will not be efficient because

- a. Councillors will have large distances to travel to go to meetings as the area is so large, this will increase the carbon footprint of the Council considerably.**
- b. Councillors are more likely to claim their expenses to cover this extra cost, now Llangeitho Councillors make no expense claims at all.**
- c. County Councillors will have further to travel to these meetings increasing their expenses, indeed there will be three different County Councillors attending each Community Council meeting for Llangeitho, not efficient in my opinion.**

It will not be convenient because

- a. The extra distances travelled will make it very inconvenient for Community and County Councillors to attend meetings.**
- b. It will be very inconvenient for members of the public to attend meetings due to the distances involved.**
- c. Meetings over zoom will be impossible due to poor internet connections.**

- d. The duration of meetings will be much longer, with Councillors having to sit there whilst discussions on other wards were taking place.

It will not be effective because

- a. You propose having four Councillors responsible for the whole of the Llangeitho ward, down from twelve now, I don't believe that four will be enough to cover such a large area and do their job effectively.
- b. I live in the Penuwch ward, you propose to get rid of that ward altogether, that will mean that the village of Penuwch may well end up with no representation and no voice on the Community Council because the four Councillors would probably come from Llangeitho as it is a larger village. There will be no electoral parity for the residents of Penuwch, nor indeed Llanbadarn Odwyn, who will suffer in the same way.

Moving forward, I hope you will reconsider your proposals.

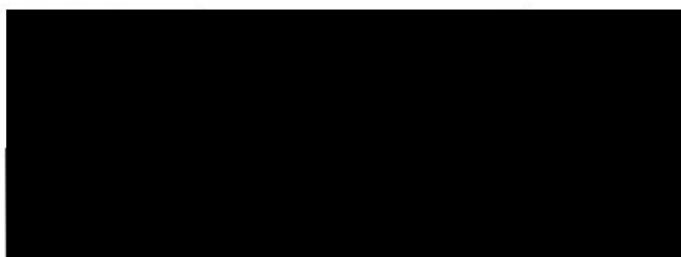
At the moment, I believe that the residents of Penuwch are at a disadvantage because the village is split between two Community Councils, Llangeitho and Nantcwnlle. There are representatives from Penuwch on Llangeitho Community Council but none on Nantcwnlle Community Council and as a result none of the precept collected in Nantcwnlle is spent on its area of Penuwch. This is democratically unfair.

I believe that the whole village of Penuwch should be included within one Community Council to give its residents democratic fairness, and that the Penuwch Ward should remain within the Community Council to give its residents electoral parity.

Llangeitho Community Council should remain as a combination of the wards of Gwynfil , (including Llanbadarn Odwyn), and Penuwch, (including the part currently in Nantcwnlle ward).

If you need to make the Community Council larger, I would suggest merging Llangeitho Community Council i.e. Penuwch and Gwynfil wards, with Llanddewi Brefi Community Council. This would be a better fit, and a closer community, with just one County Councillor responsible for the whole area. Seven Community Councillors could cover the Llanddewi Brefi ward, four in the Gwynfil ward and three in the Penuwch ward.

I hope you will consider my suggestions. Thank you.



Ceredigion 138 - [REDACTED] - Llangeitho

To The Secretary

LDBCW

Hastings House

Cardiff

CF24 OBL

02/05/24

Changes to Llangeitho Community Council

The new community council will be very large geographically. If it goes ahead it should have at least 3 more councillors i.e. 1 extra in each ward to make sure that electors have a community councillor who lives nearby and can easily be contacted or visited for advice or assistance when required.

The village of Penuwch is currently divided in 3 as far as community councils are concerned. This change gives us an opportunity to rectify this anomaly and ensure going forward that the **whole village** is located within the boundary of the new Llangeitho ward.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

May 5th 2024

To the Boundary Commission

I write to object to your proposal regarding merging Llangeitho Community Council with that of Lledrod and Llangwyrfon. I believe that your proposal will create a large Community Council with no knowledge of what goes on in local communities. You propose to get rid of the Penuwch ward of the Council altogether, with four Councillors responsible for the whole Llangeitho ward. This will probably result in the village of Penuwch having no representation on the Council at all, the four Councillors will probably come from Llangeitho village, which has a larger number of electors.

I would suggest that it is vitally important for the Penuwch ward to be retained as part of the future Community Council, and indeed strengthened by adding the third of the village that currently lies in Nantcwnlle Community Council into the Penuwch ward. This would result in the whole village of Penuwch being represented by the same Community Council, which in my opinion is very important and more convenient for everyone.

I hope that you will take notice of my suggestions, thank you

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]



6/5/24

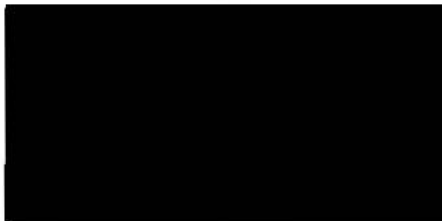
Dear Boundary Commission

I strongly object to your proposal to merge Llangeitho Community Council with that of Llangwyrfon and Lledrod. The new Council area will be vast, with no connection with local communities, like Penuwch and Llanbadarn Odwyn, it certainly won't be convenient for the residents, nor will it be efficient to the taxpayer.

In my opinion it is very important that at least Penuwch retains its Ward identity, with Councillor representation ensured on Llangeitho Community Council. I also believe that the whole village of Penuwch should be united within Llangeitho Community Council, giving democratic fairness to all.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely,



[REDACTED]
1st May 2024

Dear Boundary Commission,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen regarding your proposed boundary changes for Llangeitho Community Council.

Your statements "that the purpose of the review is to provide a fair and effective representation across Communities" is certainly not accurate with your proposal. From my perspective the proposed boundaries and reduction in Community Councillors actually diminishes this.

The current smaller wards such as Penruech and Llambadan Odwyn wards will be consumed by the larger wards proposed by yourselves and the reduction of Councillors will ensure there is no voice for these wards.

The proposed boundary with Llanguyrfan and Lledrod increases the requirement for Community Councillors to travel in excess of 18 miles one way, whereas currently the maximum mileage is 3 miles. The Carbon footprint is therefore excessive.

The ability to hold meetings over Zoom or other mechanisms is severely restricted due to the poor connectivity in this area. As a resident I can attend the meetings currently, however with your proposed boundaries this will be restrictive, and impacts on my democratic right

to attend.

There will be an increase in costs, as currently the Community Councillors in the Llangeitho Community Council do not claim any mileage or remuneration for the work they do, but will no doubt have to if your proposal continues due to the excessive travelling required.

Your proposed boundaries will result in 3 County Councillors representing the Ward with their associated travel costs and any remuneration they are able to claim.

Your current proposed boundaries will mean that the 3 wards will total over 1700 residents, this will mean that parts of those communities will disengage as they will no longer see themselves as a part of that Community Council, Llangwyrfor + Lledrod residents will not identify with a Community Council called Llangeitho due to the distance or vice versa.

I therefore fail to see how your proposed new boundaries are a "fair and effective representation"

The best option for Llangeitho Community Council and it's residents is to include the whole of Jenuwch (as part of it is split into the Nantcanlle ward). I understand that the scope of your review includes a requirement to have a minimum of 800 electors, however I fail to see why you need to change boundaries which double's the minimum requirement. Big is not always the best!

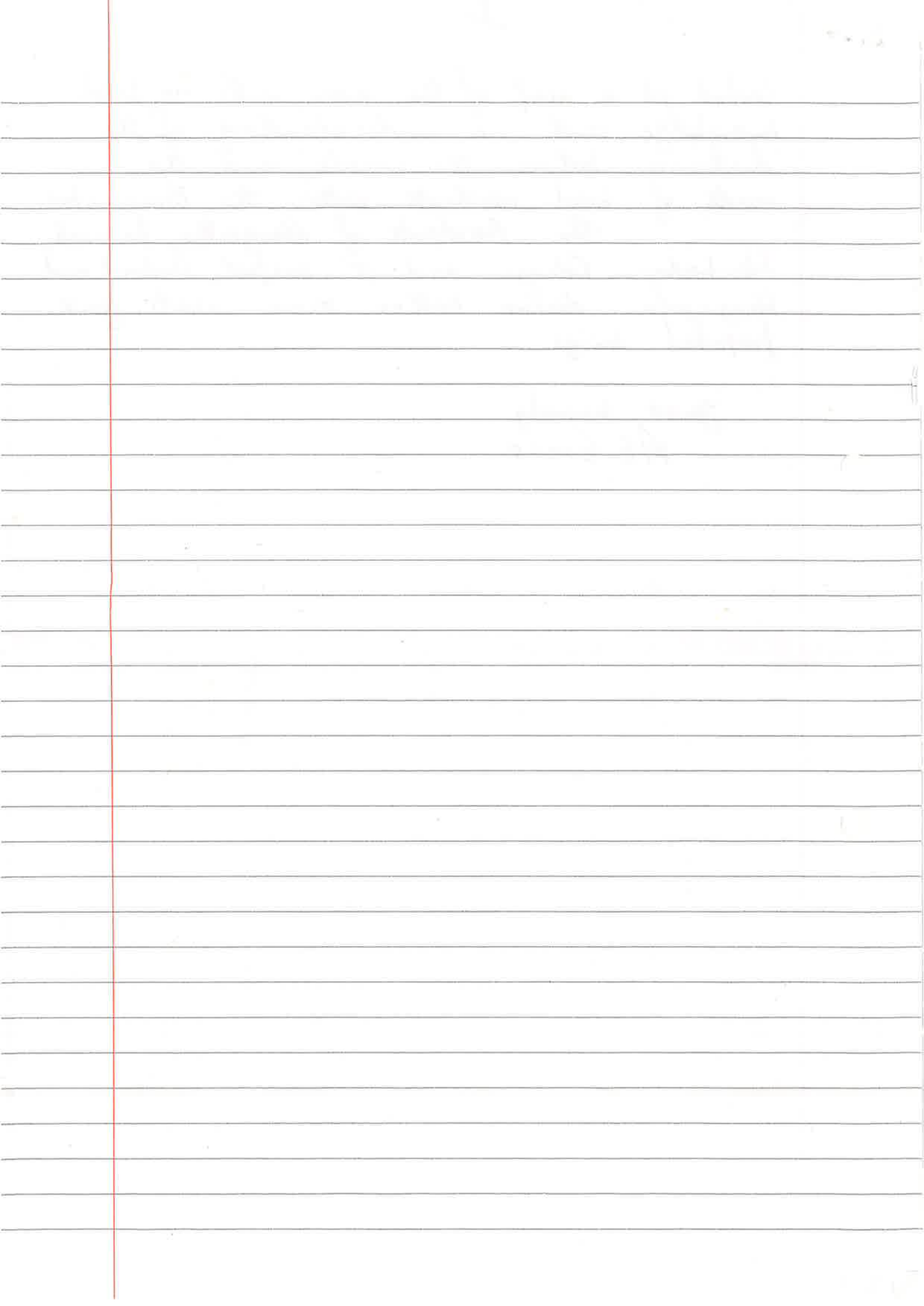
If this option is not acceptable you need to rethink your proposed boundaries as they make no sense. It seems to me that you have

looked at a map of the area, with no local knowledge and no understanding of the distance between the wards, and the needs of local residents within the Communities.

The residents of Llangeitho, Penmach, Henbadem Odwyn and I suspect Lledrod and Llangwysfan deserve better than what your proposal brings.

Yours sincerely





[REDACTED]

2/5/24

To the Boundary Commission,

I feel that I need to object to your proposal to merge Llangeitho Community Council with Lledrod and Llangwyrfon Community Councils. The main reason for my objection is that you are creating a very large ward which has nothing in common between the different areas. The travelling distances between the wards for Community and County Councillors will be significantly longer, and so will the carbon footprint of the Community Council, that is not efficient Government, neither is it convenient to me.

The only change that I would like to see is the addition of the whole village of Penuwch into Llangeitho Community Council, not split in two with Nantcwnlle as it currently is, as we are one village with the same requirements from our local representatives.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]



4TH May 2024

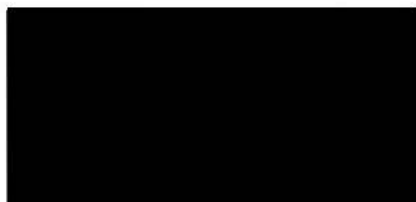
Dear Sir

I have recently become aware of your review of electoral boundaries and your proposal to join Llangeitho Community Council with Llangwyrfon and Lledrod. I cannot understand how you have arrived at this proposal when these communities are a considerable distance away and will no doubt be more costly for us the residents of Penuwch through additional travel and remuneration for Councillors.

I have looked at Lledrod's website and see that they have a lower precept, but this is because a company responsible for the wind turbines provide them with an annual sum in excess of 3k. I cannot see that they would be willing to share this with the other communities, in addition, losing Penuwch as a ward puts us at a great disadvantage in relation to having our voices heard.

Penuwch is currently split into two different wards with no rhyme or reason for this. I would ask you to reconsider your proposal and look at alternatives which are more aligned to Penuwch and Llangeitho Community Council.

Yours sincerely



MAY 2ND 2024

TO BOUNDARY COMMISSION

I WRITE TO OBJECT TO YOUR PROPOSAL TO MERGE LLANGEITHO COMMUNITY COUNCIL WITH THAT OF LLEDROD AND LLANGWYRFON. YOUR PROPOSAL WILL RESULT IN A COMMUNITY COUNCIL THAT IS DISTANT FROM THE RESIDENTS OF THE AREA, A FAR TO LARGE AN AREA FOR THE NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS YOU RECOMMEND TO COVER AND SERVE THEIR ELECTORS. IT WILL NOT BE CONVENIENT FOR ME OR ANYONE ELSE.

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE WHOLE VILLAGE OF PENUWCH IN THE SAME COMMUNITY COUNCIL, AND NOT SPLIT BETWEEN NANTCWNLLE AND LLANGEITHO AS IT IS NOW. THIS WOULD SERVE ALL THE RESIDENTS OF PENUWCH MUCH BETTER AND FAIRER, BEING PART OF LLANGEITHO COMMUNITY COUNCIL. I HOPE YOU WILL CONSIDER THIS PROPOSAL. THANK YOU,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

MAY 2ND 2024

TO BOUNDARY COMMISSION

AFTER A PUBLIC MEETING WITH LLANGEITHO COMMUNITY COUNCIL REGARDING YOUR PROPOSED NEW BOUNDARY FOR LLANGEITHO, LLEDROD, AND LLANGWYRFON, I AM WRITING TO OBJECT TO YOUR PROPOSAL. THIS IS MAINLY DUE TO THE DISTANCES BETWEEN THE THREE COMMUNITIES AND THE AMOUNT OF TRAVELLING INVOLVED FOR COUNCILLORS TO GET TO MEETINGS, THERE IS NOTHING IN COMMON BETWEEN THE THREE DIFFERENT AREAS. AS A RESULT IT WONT BE A CONVENIENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR ANYONE.

LLANGEITHO COMMUNITY COUNCIL SERVES ITS RESIDENTS WELL, BUT I DO BELIEVE THAT THE WHOLE VILLAGE OF PENUWCH INCLUDING THE PART CURRENTLY IN NANTCWNLLE, SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE SAME COMMUNITY COUNCIL SO THAT WE HAVE A CONVENIENT AND EFFICIENT SERVICE FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY.

THANK YOU,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6th May 2024

The Chief Executive
Local Democracy & Boundary Commission for Wales
Hastings House, Fitzalan House
Cardiff
CF24 0BL

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to protest the proposed community boundary changes in Ceredigion.

What is this really about?

Community councils should be our voice, particularly in the rural area where we live.

Therefore, I do not support this change.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6th May 2024

The Chief Executive
Local Democracy & Boundary Commission for Wales
Hastings House, Fitzalan House
Cardiff
CF24 0BL

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to protest the proposed community boundary changes in Ceredigion.

What is this really about?

Community councils should be our voice, particularly in the rural area where we live.

Therefore, I do not support this change.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 148 – [REDACTED] – Llangeitho



3 May '24

Boundaries Commission

Cardiff

Chief Executive

Your latest report proposes merging Llangeitho Community Council with Lledrod and Llangwryfon. I do not agree with this recommendation because these 3 wards have almost nothing in common with each other.

Llangeitho and Llanddewi Brefi Councils have more in common since both have the same County councillor in charge of the two Wards.

They have more in common in terms of community, and both are within the catchment area for Ysgol Tregaron. Lledrod and Llangwryfon are further north towards Aberystwyth and generally more urban than rural.

Merge Llangeitho with Llanddewi Brefi if you must, but not with Lledrod and Llangwryfon.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Boundary Commission
Cardiff.

4/5/24.

Dear Sir/Madam,

After attending a public meeting earlier this week, it has been brought to our attention that we need to voice our opinion not to amalgamate Llangeitho Community Council Ward with Lledrod Council and Llanguyrfon Community Council. The distance between the top of Llanguyrfon Boundary down to Llangeitho is far greater than the existing boundaries.

This extra travelling is no way good for the environment as we would be using more vehicles to travel to and from all the meetings and would be polluting the environment with all the fumes from all the cars and surely this is not the way forward.

Please keep to the existing boundaries and Do NOT amalgamate with Lledrod and Llanguyrfon.

Yours Sincerely
[REDACTED]

3/5/2024

Chief Executive
Boundary Commission
Cardiff.

Dear Chief Executive,

I write to you as I am very concerned about these proposals that have been proposed to extend the Boundaries of Llangeitho Community Council to include Lledrod and Llangrylon Community.

At the moment Llangeitho and Llanddewi Brefi have the same County Councillor, namely Mr Rhodri Evans, who fully support both Llangeitho and Llanddewi Brefi communities and also lives within these two areas. I don't feel that 3 county councillors would have Llangeitho and Llanddewi Brefi's best interest at heart. If acts are to be made out down the other 2 County Councils and amalgamate Llangeitho and Llanddewi Brefi to be same County Councillor. Thank you.

Ceredigion 151 – [REDACTED] – Llangeitho



Llangeitho

Tregaron

Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales

Hastings House

Fitzalan Court

CF24 0BL

Dear Chief Executive,

I write to express my disappointment at hearing the plans to merge rural wards.

Your proposal to merge Llangeitho ward with Lledrod and Llangwryfon wards won't work, because the amount of precept given to the three wards is so different. How could one amount, for various things, be divided equally among the three wards, when those wards have different requirements? All three wards will suffer, one way or another. The current arrangements work very well, so why change something if it's working well?

Thank you for reading my letter

Warm Regards




Penuwch

Ceredigion


8v2024

Dear Chief Executive,

Ceredigion Community Review 2024

I write regarding the draft recommendations for changes to the boundaries of Llangeitho Ward (Penuwch).

I understand the motivation to simplify and rationalise, but although merging Llangeitho Ward with Lledrod and Llangwryfon Wards may appear easy on a map, I wish to draw your attention to some of the disadvantages for local residents and for future councillors that would arise from following lines on a map.

Due to the geography of the area, there is a close relationship between the villages of Penuwch, Blaenpennal, Bronant, Llangeitho, and Llwyn Piod (Stag's Head), along with Llanddewi (and Llanddewi Ward in general). There is a mountain between Penuwch and Llangwryfon, and the social connections between schools, chapels, the annual agricultural show, and associations such as Merched y Wawr, are incidental.

Current community councillors know their communities well, but I fear that serving such an extensive area will add to councillors' workload under the proposed system and weaken the necessary close relationship between councillors and their communities.

Merging wards will require local residents to travel out of their communities in order to express their opinions at public meetings, at their own expense, with extra journeys adding to environmental pollution.

In general, I fear that merging wards and limiting representation of our communities so severely will make it impossible to represent all voices within those communities, and will therefore have a negative effect on local democracy.

Many thanks to you for considering these points, yours sincerely,



Ceredigion 153 – [REDACTED] – Llangeitho

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Llwynpiod

Llangeitho

[REDACTED]

5 May '24

Boundaries Commission

Merging Llangeitho Ward with Lledrod and Llangwryfon and reducing the number of Councillors from 12 to 4 will lead to Llanbadarn Odwyn and Penuwch losing their status as villages. The reduction from 12 councillors to 4 will be a huge loss, and many of those councillors won't have such a good understanding of their areas. Villages in our areas losing their status will be detrimental.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tregaron
Ceredigion
[REDACTED]

7TH May 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Boundary Changes

I recently attended a public meeting in Llangeitho village hall, organised by Llangeitho Community Council, to inform upon and discuss the proposal by the Boundary Commission to merge Llangeitho Community Council with Llangwryfon and Lledrod Community Councils.

I believe this proposal is ridiculous. Geographically they are miles apart and would cause problems for our local Community Councillors, for example, in terms of travelling and expense. I am told that none of our local Community Councillors in Llangeitho claim expenses (which I am led to believe could be up to £150 per annum). They prefer to give their time and effort free in the true Community spirit.

I certainly believe that the proposal by Llangeitho Community Council to remain as they are – which includes the parishes of Llanbadarn Odwyn, Gwynfil and Penuwch (and incorporate all of Penuwch and not just part as at present) is the most favourable option. The Community Council appears effective and is convenient for most residents, councillors and the Clerk.

I am informed that the Community Council has considered a second option which, if the status quo cannot be maintained, is a far more sensible approach than that suggested by the Boundary Commission. This would be to merge with Llanddewi Brefi. There is a natural link between Llangeitho and Llanddewi Brefi and the residents of each interact far more than with Lledrod and Llangwryfon which are seen as geographically and socially separate. Chapels, Young Farmers Clubs, Agricultural and Horticultural shows, to name but a few, are groups where residents may be seen supporting both communities. Furthermore, both share a County Councillor so that link is already well established.

I live, with my partner, on a family farm in the parish of Llanbadarn Odwyn within the ward of Llangeitho Community Council. I would definitely not wish to see Llanbadarn Odwyn lose its status and identity. My Grandfather and father have both been members of Llangeitho Community Council and my mother is currently an active member. They have given their time and effort out of community spirit. Llanbadarn Odwyn is an integral part of Llangeitho Community Council – to include Lledrod and Llangwryfon would dilute the community sense of being which I do not believe would happen if the situation remained as current or even integrated with Llanddewi Brefi.

I do hope you consider my letter and see sense. The suggestion to merge Lledrod, Llangwryfon and Llangeitho is non-sensical and I suspect instigated by someone sat in an office with no sense of the community links of a rural Welsh area. I look forward to your favourable response.

Yours sincerely,



Ceredigion 155 – [REDACTED] – Llangeitho

Boundary Commission for Wales

Hastings House

Cardiff

Dear Sir/Madam

I write with concern about amalgamating the Parish of Llangeitho with Lledrod and Llangwryfon. I don't agree to this amalgamation for various reasons, namely –

Our local [REDACTED] covers the area of Llangeitho, Llanddewi Brefi and Lledrod but does not cover the Parish of Llangwryfon. It is very useful that he has knowledge of all his areas when attending monthly meetings. As he does not cover the Llangwryfon area it would not be viable for him to attend those meetings anymore. So that might result in less police attendance in meetings and in the community. It is so important that the local police has a visible presence in the community as it make local residents feel more relaxed and assured that our local officer is watching over our community. The Aberystwyth local division of the police would not have an idea or interest of what goes on in the Llangeitho community. I feel it would not be viable to amalgamate Llangeitho, Lledrod and Llangwryfon together.

A new option to amalgamate Llangeitho and Llanddewi Brefi could be looked into as the local PCSO covers both these areas.

King regards

[REDACTED]

Llwynpiod, Llangeitho
Tregaron
Ceredigion
[REDACTED]

Boundary Commission for Wales.
Cardiff

8th May '24.

Having read about the proposals of combining wards in our Community I would like to express my concern that I don't agree to this proposal.

The costs for our Community at present is very minimal, the Councillors due tireless work in the community voluntarily but if the wards were to be amalgamated the costs would increase due to travelling to Hledrod and Llanguyrfon for regular monthly meetings.

The cost to pay the Secretary would increase substantially due to again travelling costs to attend regular meetings. Many deas do not charge for all their minor expenses as they regularly attend community events on their way to meetings etc.

To amalgamate 3 wards with 3 secretary's down to 1 secretary would increase the workload for 1 person and force 2 secretaries out of 2 posts, loss of employment.

Kind Regards,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Tregaron
[REDACTED]

6 May 2024

Boundary Commission for Wales,
Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
Cardiff, CF25 0BL

Dear Sir or Madam,

Regarding the proposed plans to merge Llangeitho Community Council with Llangwryfon and Lledrod:-

I wish to respond and express my strong opposition to these plans. Our community council, Llangeitho, which includes Llanbadarn Odwyn, Gwynfil and part of Penuwch, runs effectively as it is, and merging it with two other councils would create a single large and inaccessible council. The councillors, who are all local Welsh speakers, do not claim their costs of £150 per year. They are proud to undertake the work voluntarily and enjoy serving their community.

There have been intense discussions about this issue, and no-one can see any sense in merging with two parishes that aren't even located very close to Llangeitho. Local residents tend to turn to Tregaron for services such as the post office, doctor's surgery or pharmacy, along with the secondary school. Llangwryfon and Lledrod, on the other hand, look to Llanrhystud for convenience. Councillors for Llangwryfon and Lledrod would not serve this area with the same gusto.

Current councillors are all local Welsh speakers who have lived here for years. Meetings and minutes are in Welsh, the community is well-served, and work progresses smoothly.

In Llangeitho, the hall provides a social hub, there is a school, a shop and cafe, a pub and a Young Farmers' Club, and a thriving agricultural show is held. Should the councils be merged, I fear that the distance between them would benefit one of the village communities at the expense of the other.

If merging must take place, wouldn't it make more sense to go for the 3rd option and merge with the rest of Penuwch and Llanddewi Brefi? A lot of involvement already exists between these two villages, with their young farmers' clubs and their shows, and they collaborate happily. They have already discussed the possibility of merging, and since they are only 3 miles apart, travel and costs would be reduced.

Furthermore, if you dissolve the current council, you will eliminate a chunk of the history of the old parishes, and their names will gradually disappear forever. Sarn Helen runs through the parish, there is an old ecclesiastical institution in Llanbadarn Odwyn, Llangeitho has its history of Daniel Rowland, and the current parish is run effectively. A merger with more distant parishes raises concerns that the use of the Welsh language in committees will diminish and change.

So I urge you to reconsider your plans and put the needs of our area first, rather than separate three councils.

I hope I shall receive a prompt response.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

[REDACTED]
Llangeitho

Ceredigion
[REDACTED]

Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales

Hastings House

Fitzalan Court

Cardiff

CF24 0BL

5 May 2024

Dear Commissioners

We write to express our disappointment with the draft proposal contained in the latest Ceredigion community review report. We are residents in the Llangeitho Community Council area, in the lower end of Penuwch ward. As you know, the current Community Council area includes Penuwch, Gwynfil and Llanbadarn Odwyn wards.

The village of Llangeitho, in Gwynfil ward, is the hub for the area, both historically and functionally today. It has a village hall, shop and pub, and a school campus, chapel and church. This is also where buses pick up secondary school pupils. It is the focus for a number of community clubs and activities including a Young Farmers' Club which includes members from the Bwlchllan (Nantcwnlle) and Llwynygroes (Gartheli) areas. The hamlet of Stag's Head in the parish of Llanbadarn Odwyn is another small hub with a garage, shop and social club.

Penuwch is the third hamlet. This settlement is divided between two Community Councils (Nantcwnlle and Llangeitho). I understand that boundaries follow geographical features such as streams, but in this case the stream divides the centre of the settlement. I believe it is also significant that a number of local people with whom I have spoken, who know the area well, are surprised that the village is divided between two Community Councils, and believed that the whole village already came under Llangeitho Community Council.

We were amazed at the proposal to merge Llangeitho Community Council with Lledrod and Llangwryfon Community Councils, to be called Llangeitho (though that may only be temporary). We assume that the residents of Lledrod, not to mention the residents of Llangwryfon, would not identify in any way with the community of Llangeitho, any more than the residents of Llangeitho would identify with Llangwryfon, which is located down towards the coast – where the landscape and the community are both completely different from the Llangeitho area – and the Llangwryfon area tends to look north towards Aberystwyth rather than south towards Lampeter.

Llangeitho is located on the upper River Aeron. Part of the boundary follows one of its main tributaries, Aeron Fechan. Llangeitho Community Council has considered extending the boundary of the Community Council area south-west of the current boundary in the Penuwch area so as to

include the whole village within the boundaries of its area. The boundary would follow Nant Arth as a geographical feature, which itself flows into the River Aeron.

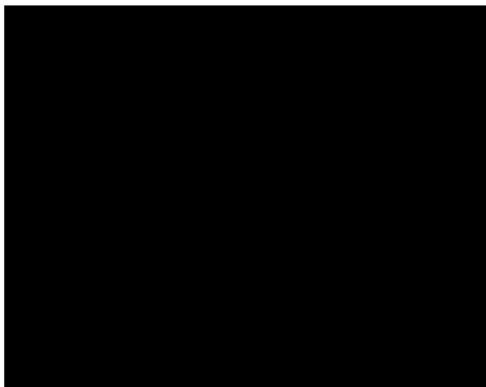
In terms of an efficient and convenient arrangement, we do not believe that the new Community Council area represented by three County Councillors would be efficient because these Councillors would be pulled in all directions across a very wide region, and unable to give proper attention to any particular area under their care.

The Llangeitho Community Council area is in a ward represented by a County Councillor who is also responsible for the Llanddewi Brefi Community Council area. In terms of consistency, merging these two Community Councils, thus reflecting a County Council ward, would be more reasonable if the main rationale for changing boundaries is to ensure that the numbers of electors comply with County Council policy.

Merging the two Community Council areas of Llangeitho and Llanddewi Brefi would cover a large geographical area, with the two main villages serving as hubs for wards within the new Community Council. We assume that this would enable a more efficient and convenient arrangement than the current proposal to merge Llangeitho with Lledrod and Llangwryfon, which would cut across geographical, community, political and historical arrangements.

Wishing you well in your endeavours.

Yours sincerely



May 6, 2024

[REDACTED]

The Chief Executive
Local Democracy & Boundary Commission for Wales
Hastings House, Fitzalan [REDACTED] Court
Cardiff CF24 0BL

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to protest the proposed community boundary changes in Ceredigion.

The baseline question must be, what is a community? How do we define it? Historically the communities here were physically contained by geographical features, and were small enough that everyone within one could walk to see their community councillor, who knew them. We, of course, aren't restricted by foot power anymore, but our communities are still places where we more or less know everyone and which feel contained within an area. It is the place we identify as home; a place which supports our sense of self. Not long ago even small communities had a school, a post office with a shop and a church; places where people met and talked, made friends or perhaps lost them. Those opportunities are at the heart of how we relate to life outside of our heads. Much of the infrastructure of community has been taken from us under the false pretext of 'progress'. Post offices and schools are shut down and we are weakened, separated from each other. We've been hoodwinked into believing that modern life is something to be imposed upon us that we have to consent to, rather than the vibrant and purposeful result of our own creativity and our collective purpose. The more we hand over our power to some centralised bureaucracy, the easier we become to control. Divide and rule. Is that perhaps the objective here?

What is this really about?

-What it is not about is your stated purpose "to continue to reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government." Diluting identities and distancing local government, which you are proposing, will clearly do the opposite.

-It is not about fulfilling 'size rules', likely from COD (computer originated disinformation). Communities are not clones of each other, with magic one size fits all numeration. They are not a mathematical equation.

-This is not in response to a need or request from councils or the public. The councils are objecting, as are members of the public who are aware of what you are planning.

Community councils should be our voice, particularly the rural voice where we are. They may not always function very well. They are made up of people after all, and humans being what they are, clashes or even sometimes feuds are inevitable. Boundary changes won't

change that dynamic; it would just be a change in the cast of characters who would be further removed, both physically and empathetically from their constituents. Objections to that change are about a principle, not personalities.

There are other changes afoot that feed into the same channelled direction. The county council areas are also due to expand. I believe that we are slated to be joined to Aberystwyth where our rural voice would certainly be drowned. I understand that the Senedd wants people to vote for a party only, not for an individual. It would be a faceless vote, and no one would be accountable. Seven more rural schools are set for closure. I was just told that the county councillors have been told by 'those in charge' that they must not speak to the press about anything, and if anyone wants any information from the council they have to put in a FOI request, which takes months. *These kinds of actions are being taken across the globe against the populace.* So I ask again, what is this really about? There are some pretty glaring dots to connect, and the emerging picture has nothing to do with 'democracy', or 'fairness' or 'equity', or any of the other meaningless buzz words. My response is 'I do not consent'.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

May 6, 2024



The Chief Executive
Local Democracy & Boundary Commission for Wales
Hastings House, Fitzalan Court
Cardiff CF24 0BL

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Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

7th May 2024

Chief Executor
Boundary Commission for Wales

Dear Sir

Having heard about the proposed changes the Boundary Commission wish to make within the Llangeitho Community Council area, I would strongly disagree to these proposals as the Llangeitho Community Council provide excellent support, both physically and financial to the Community of Llanbadarn Odwyn, Llangeitho and Penuwch.

They support all the local churches within the parish, as costs have increased tremendously to maintain the churchyards.

The local hall in the village of Llangeitho benefit from the labour and man hours that the councillors do to the hall, as you can see from last year's report that was sent in to the Boundary Commission a great many of the Councillors spend hours of their time painting the hall in preparation for the National Eisteddfod as well as maintaining the condition of the statue on Llangeitho Roundabout & all preparations done during the Remembrance service in November.

The Community Council in Llangeitho support most or nearly all the clubs & societies within the parish. To many of the clubs etc this actually means that they do not have to close their doors due to price increase in nearly everything.

The children's playground in Llangeitho serves a good and safe place for the children of Llanbadarn Odwyn, Llangeitho and Penuwch to attend. The upkeep of the playground/park area is all down to the Community Council of which we feel would be lost if amalgamating with Lledrod & Llangwryfon, they wouldn't care or even know if there was a playground area in Llangeitho.

I would request that you carefully re-consider your original proposal and keep Llangeitho Community Council to remain as it is, but as was mentioned in an open meeting last week, perhaps amalgamate the remainder of Penuwch that is separated to the parish of Nantcwnlle to make Penuwch back as one ward.

Llanddewi Brefi community is of similar background to Llangeitho and this would make more geographical sense than the proposal made by someone sitting in an office down in Cardiff, that does not have an incline to the geographical surrounds of Llangeitho / Llanddewi Brefi area.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Paul Rooke

Llangeitho Community Councillor



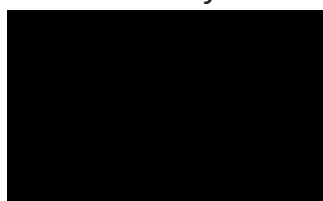
Dear Boundaries Commission

I write to express my response to the recommendations regarding changes to ward boundaries.

I am committed to ensuring that the cohesion of the Llangeitho Community Council area is maintained by extending the current boundary to include Llangeitho, Gwynfil, and Llanbadarn Odwyn. This would preserve the historic character of the area.

I do not agree with the option proposed in the Boundary Commission's report of merging Llangeitho with Lledrod and Llangwryfon, due to the distance between these wards, changing the identity of these three wards and affecting the residents of these villages, and affecting residents' ability to attend meetings, and it would be difficult to prioritise projects fairly in the different communities.

Yours sincerely



Paul Anthony Rooke

Cllr.



Llangeitho

Tregaron



5/5/2024

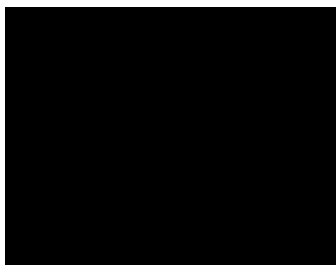
Dear Boundaries Commission

I write to express my response to the recommendations regarding changes to ward boundaries.

I am committed to ensuring that the cohesion of the Llangeitho Community Council area is maintained by extending the current boundary to include Llangeitho, Gwynfil, Penuwch in its entirety, and Llanbadarn Odwyn. This would preserve the historic character of the area.

I do not agree with the option proposed in the Boundary Commission's report of merging Llangeitho with Lledrod and Llangwryfon, due to the distance between these wards, changing the identity of these three wards and affecting the residents of these villages, and affecting residents' ability to attend meetings, and it would be difficult to prioritise projects fairly in the different communities, and things such as Llangeitho Show and clubs such as the Llangeitho Young Farmers' Club.

Yours sincerely



2-05-2025

The Boundaries Commission,
To whom it may concern,

I feel I must object to
the proposal of changing the Llangeitho, Penruch
and Hwynpiod community boundary.

The net effect will be more cost and
less efficiency. We do not have anything in
common with the proposed community change. If
anything the boundaries commission should lean
towards amalgamating with the Waddewi Brefi community
council. This would mean that they would be the
two communities that make up the County Council
Llangeitho ward.

Therefore please leave the boundaries
as they are now.

Yours faithfully,
[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 164 – [REDACTED] – Llangeitho

[REDACTED]

Llangeitho

Tregaron

[REDACTED]

Dear

I am sending this letter to express my opposition to the proposal to merge 4 Community councils.

Losing 5 community councillors would be a loss for the area since they do not receive any payment for their work. And they know the area and people.

I understand that half of the village of Penuwch is in Nantcwnlle parish, and when a request was made for a donation to provide a heart defibrillator, there was no response from Nantcwnlle, even though the defibrillator was in that parish.

It would make sense to have Penuwch in a single parish.

None of the Nantcwnlle members represent the Penuwch area.

There is also no need to close Llangeitho school. The site could be extended to create a school capable of accommodating more children.

This is another example of the Llanddewi area losing a school, losing a shop, losing a pub, causing the community to disintegrate.

Warm regards

[REDACTED]

1-05-2024.

The Boundaries Commission,

To whom it may concern,

Living within the community of Llangeitho, I feel that changing the boundaries of the community council is a ridiculous idea. All the community councillors give their time for free, but if the boundaries are changed, then there would be extra costs and the councillors would take the allowance proposed for them. Also the council clerk would charge extra as the work load would be greater.

Amalgamating with the community councils of Lledrod and Llangwrygon does not make any sense as we have nothing in common with these other villages.

The precept is important, and amalgamating with two other communities will dilute the precept, and this means less money to spend in Llangeitho, Penruech and Llwynpiod community council. It is a large community steeped in local history and I would

not wish anything to change from the current situation.

If there has to be a change in the boundaries, then joining with Llanddeini Brefi community council should be the option as it would fit in nicely with the local authority county council Wylageitho ward.

I hope you will look favourably at my letter, and keep the community council as it is.

Yours faithfully.



[REDACTED]
Llangeitho
Tregaron,
Ceredigion
[REDACTED]

Dear Boundaries Commission

My name is **Nia**, and I have lived in the village of Llangeitho since I was born. The Primary School I attended was Llangeitho Primary School. This is where I made the most important connections of my life, and due to growing up in this area, I regard this community as a family, and I know the majority of people in the village. It will be a huge disappointment to see this school close. I had intended to buy a house with my partner in Llangeitho where my original home is located, and close to where I grew up. I had imagined the future with my home in Llangeitho, raising my children to attend the same school as me, and in time as they grew up, they could attend Llangeitho YFC where I'm currently a member. With the school closing, I would have to travel for my children to attend another school, and also to work. This is yet another reason for me to buy a house in a different area because it would be easier. It would have a huge effect on Llangeitho YFC if there are no more young people in the community because they have no reason to live in Llangeitho. Or there may be a small number of members living in the village, resulting in the club moving to another village, or members may even attend another club because that is where all their friends are.

This is why I believe the wards should change so that Llangeitho includes Gwynfil, Llanbadarn Odwyn and the whole of Penuwch, which would ensure a local community within a reasonable distance and an emphasis on a close community. I don't see many compelling reasons for merging the wards of Llangeitho with those of Lledrod and Llangwryfon.

Diolch,



[REDACTED]

Llangeitho

Tregaron

[REDACTED]

I disagree with the proposal to merge Llangeitho Community Council with Llangwryfon, Bronant and Lledrod. The area is too large to travel, especially in winter, and it's not fair for people from Llangeitho to discuss issues that don't involve their area.

I can't see what savings you'll make, because we're all volunteers apart from the clerk who'll have to manage the work for 3 Wards. They'll need a wage increase to cover the work.

Furthermore, we already meet for 2-3 hours to discuss work relating to Llangeitho. If you add Lledrod, Bronant and Llangwryfon, we would need an entire day to discuss the work, and you would be required to pay these people for their work and travelling costs.

I would like to know how much all this has cost the community already.

[REDACTED]

5/5/24

[REDACTED]
Llangeitho
[REDACTED]

Dear whom it may concern.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed merger of our local committee council. As a young member of this community, I strongly believe that merging the council would have a detrimental impact on our neighborhood.

The local committee council plays a vital role in addressing the needs and concerns of our community members. It serves as a platform for residents to voice their opinions, collaborate on important issues, and work together to improve our area.

Without this Council, we would lose a valuable resource for community engagement and decision-making.

Furthermore, the merger of the council would lead to a lack of representation for our community. Important decisions that directly affect us would be made without our input, potentially resulting in policies that do not align with the best interests of the residents.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider the decision to merge our local committee council. Keep this essential institution open is crucial for maintaining a strong sense of community, fostering communication, and ensuring that our voices are heard.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



4/5/24

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing concerning the proposed boundary and representation changes in Ceredigion.

This seems to be another change for changes sake. Our community boundaries were created to reflect the geographical area and features and its population. Parishes have become communities to reflect cultural changes but still are small enough for people to know each other and their councillors.

These proposals are another example of top down power and control. They certainly have not been called for by the people. I only learnt about them a few days ago and there isn't time before consultation ends to organise resistance or protest and the local population to be fully informed. When people realise what is going on they will join me in objecting to these proposals and calling for them to be rejected.

Yours Sincerely
[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 170 – [REDACTED] – Penuwch

[REDACTED]

Penuwch,
Tregaron,
Ceredigion.

[REDACTED]

3 May 2024

Dear Boundary Commission,

I agree with keeping Llangeitho Community Council as we already are, with Gwynfil, Llanbadarn Odwyn and Penuwch wards.

The village of Penuwch is currently divided between two wards. Since I live in Penuwch, bringing the two halves together would make more sense in increasing the number of people in Penuwch ward to over 400. Penuwch is the only village in Ceredigion that is divided in two. If you did this, there wouldn't be any need to merge with Llangwryfon and Lledrod.

If merging must happen, then Llanddewi Brefi is the obvious choice, since the County Councillor, Mr Rhodri Evans, represents Llangeitho, Llanbadarn Odwyn, Penuwch and Llanddewi Brefi.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Penuwch,
Tregaron,
Ceredigion,
[REDACTED]
5 May 2024

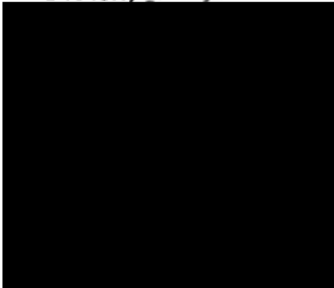
Dear Boundary Commission,

I'm sending you this letter to ask you to reconsider keeping Llangeitho Community Council as it is, with the wards of Gwynfil, Llanbadarn Odwyn, and Penuwch.

It would make more sense to merge the part of the village of Penuwch that's currently in Nantcwnlle ward, with the rest of Penuwch, and this would bring the number of people in Penuwch ward to over 400. No other village in Ceredigion is divided in two like this. Furthermore, the part of Penuwch that's in Nantcwnlle doesn't receive any money from Nantcwnlle Community Council.

Another option to consider, along with the above, is for us to merge with Llanddewi Brefi since we have the same County Councillor, Mr Rhodri Evans.

Diolch, 



Ceredigion 172 – [REDACTED] – Llangeitho

[REDACTED]
Penuwch,
Tregaron,
Ceredigion.

[REDACTED]
5th May 2024

Dear Boundary Commission,

I am a voter in the Llangeitho Ward in Ceredigion, I was very sad to hear that you intend us to unite with Llangwryton and Lledrod due to Boundary changes. I hope the you will consider the following ,I live in Penuwch and it would make more sense to join us with the part of Penuwch that is in the Ward of Nantcwnlle. This would bring us up to the 400 mark and we could stay as we are Llanbadarn Odwyn, Gwynfil and Penuwch. There is no other village in Ceredigion that have been separated into two different Wards.

If uniting us with another ward why not Llanddewi Brefi as we are all under the same County Councillor Mr Rhodri Evans, this would be more sensible I think.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 173 – [REDACTED] – Llangeitho

[REDACTED]
Penuwch,
Tregaron,
Ceredigion,
[REDACTED]

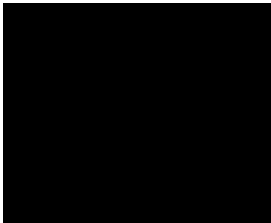
5 Mai 2024

Dear Boundary Commission,

I understand that you propose to merge Llangeitho Community Council with Llangwryfon and Lledrod, but this would be a big mistake. It would make more sense to unite the rest of Penuwch village that's currently in Nantcwnlle ward. No other village in the County of Ceredigion is divided in two like Penuwch.

Another option to consider, along with the above, is for us to merge with Llanddewi Brefi since we have the same County Councillor, Mr Rhodri Evans.

Thank you,



Ceredigion 174 – [REDACTED] – Llangeitho

[REDACTED]

Penuwch,

Tregaron,

Ceredigion,

[REDACTED]

3 May 2024

Dear Boundary Commission,

I agree with keeping Llangeitho Community Council as it is, with Gwynfil, Llanbadarn Odwyn and Penuwch wards.

No other village in the County of Ceredigion is divided in two like Penuwch. It would make more sense to merge the part of the village of Penuwch that's currently in Nantcwnlle ward, with the rest of Penuwch, and this would bring the number of people in Penuwch to over 400.

Another option to consider, along with the above, is for us to merge with Llanddewi Brefi since we have the same County Councillor, Mr Rhodri Evans.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
06 May 2024

Boundary Commission for Wales
Ground Floor
Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
Cardiff
CF24 0BL

Dear Sir / Madam

Llangeitho Community Council Boundary Review

We write in response to the proposed changes sent to Llangeitho Community Council following review of the Community Council's boundaries.

We were very disappointed with the recommended boundary change for the Llangeitho Community Council area which would merge the Llangeitho, Penuwch and Llanbadarn Odwyn areas with the communities of Lledrod and Llangwryfon.

We feel strongly that the current boundaries and administrative arrangements provide services that meet the needs of the communities of Llangeitho, Penuwch and Llanbadarn Odwyn.

The 12 Community Councillors for Llangeitho deserve praise for providing a commendable service to the community over the years. They know their area and its residents and their needs, and provide their service at no cost to the taxpayer. The proposed changes to the administrative boundaries would undo all the good work that has been achieved by the Community Council over many years. We are concerned that the Commission, in drawing up the recommendations, is not fully familiar with the area, nor does it respect its unique character, or appreciate how impractical the recommendations would be in terms of the community and its administration.

We ask the Commission to consider the unanimous view within the community of Llangeitho, Penuwch and Llanbadarn Odwyn, and accept the previous proposal by Llangeitho Community Council, namely the retention of the historic boundaries which have provided an effective and efficient service to the community over the years. We feel strongly that maintaining the status quo is the only option that should be considered.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

03 May 2024

Chief Executive
Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales
Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
CARDIFF
CF24 0BL

Dear Chief Executive

Ceredigion Community Review 2024

I write to you as an elector in Llangeitho Ward (Penuwch), Ceredigion, in response to your recommendations.

I do not believe that merging Llangeitho Ward with Lledrod and Llangwryfon Wards is an option that will benefit any elector within the new ward.

We have a good relationship with our current community councillors, they are knowledgeable about our area and its problems, willing to listen to any complaints we have, and do their best to help us if they can. Merging these 3 wards would weaken our democracy and I feel that our voices would not have such a fair hearing with 4 representatives instead of the current 12.

I cannot see how this change would save on costs, since the current councillors don't claim the money that they are eligible to receive, and they undertake all their duties voluntarily and free of charge. Why should they have to travel further to attend meetings? There's a strong possibility that they would claim expenses for this. There may be savings on clerking costs, but a single clerk's hours would certainly increase in order to deal with all the work for the new ward, and serving this extended rural area would lead to an increase in travel costs.

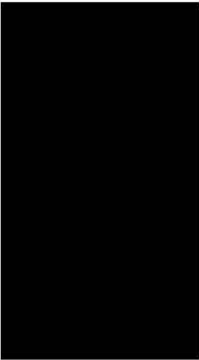
If an issue of interest and importance to me is due to be discussed by a committee, it is very easy for me to attend that committee to listen to the discussion, but this would be more difficult if meetings were held further away. Petrol and diesel costs remain high, and I would think twice about travelling to the new areas, and would also worry about the impact of additional travel on the environment. The broadband service in this area isn't good enough for me to join online either.

In my opinion, the current wards should be retained, though there are two other possible options in order to achieve the required 800 electors, namely by including the rest of the village of Penuwch within the current ward, or merging Llangeitho Ward with the current Llanddewi Ward. This would retain the current county ward and it would make much more sense in terms of democratic effectiveness and efficiency in our area.

Thank you for reading my letter and I hope that you will consider my comments.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]



Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales

Ground Floor

Hastings House

Fitzalan Court

CARDIFF

CG24 DBL

02/05/2024

Dear Sirs

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposal by the Boundary Commission to merge Llangeitho Community Council with Lledrod and Llangwryfon.

Whilst I recognise that the current arrangement is not sustainable, I feel the proposal suggested is absurd. There is no feeling of community between Llangeitho and Lledrod and Llangwryfon, with the wards being covered by three County Councillors, which could have an adverse impact on all the areas.

The distances involved could also mean Councillors having to do up to a 40 mile round journey to attend meetings. This would be costly and environmentally detrimental. Currently the County Councillors do not claim the annual pay that is due to them, I foresee this will change which would be an additional burden on council tax payers in the area. It could also make it unviable for the public to attend meetings due to travel and cost issues.

I understand that the Community Council has submitted a proposal to bring the whole of the village of Penuwch into Llangeitho ward. This is a sensible solution as the community of Penuwch have an affinity with Llangeitho, with many of its residents attending community events and clubs in Llangeitho, such as the local show, Merched y Wawr and the Church, as well as attending and supporting the local school in Llangeitho.

The second proposal suggested by the Community Council involves merging Llangeitho ward with Llanddewi Brefi. Both these wards currently share a County Councillor, so this merger would make more sense. Both these wards also have Tregaron as their service centre and the communities have an affinity with each other. I feel this would be a better match for Llangeitho than what is proposed by the Boundary Commission.

I sincerely hope my views will be taken into account, as it is important that the history and heritage of our communities is preserved for future generations.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales

Ground Floor

Hastings House

Fitzalan Court

CARDIFF

CG24 OBL

01/05/2024

Dear Sirs

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposal by the Boundary Commission to merge Llangeitho Community Council with Lledrod and Llangwryfon.

Whilst I recognise that the Community Council cannot carry on as it is, I feel the option proposed is irrational. There is no feeling of community between Llangeitho and Lledrod and Llangwryfon, with Tregaron being the service centre for Llangeitho and Aberystwyth being the service centre for Lledrod and Llangwryfon. It would also mean the ward would be covered by three County Councillors, which could be detrimental to the area.

The distances involved could also mean Councillors having to do up to a 40 mile round journey to attend meetings. This will be costly and does not support the Welsh Government's carbon neutral objectives. Currently the County Councillors do not claim the annual pay that is due to them, I foresee this will change which would be an additional burden on council tax payers in the area. It could also make it unviable for the public to attend meetings due to travel and cost issues.

I understand that the Community Council has submitted a proposal to bring the whole of the village of Penuwch into Llangeitho ward. This is a sensible solution as the community of Penuwch have an affinity with Llangeitho, with many of its residents attending community events and clubs in Llangeitho, such as the local show, Merched y Wawr and the Church, as well as attending and supporting the local school in Llangeitho.

The second proposal suggested by the Community Council involves merging Llangeitho ward with Llanddewi Brefi. Both these wards currently share a County Councillor, so this merger would make more sense. Both these wards also have Tregaron as their service centre and the communities have an affinity with each other. I feel this would be a better match for Llangeitho than what is proposed by the Boundary Commission.

I sincerely hope my views will be taken into account, as it is important that the history of the area, in the parishes of Gwynfil, Llanbadarn Odwyn and Penuwch is not lost for future generations, as I fear may happen.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
LLANGEITHO
Tregaron
[REDACTED]

1st May 2024

Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales
Ground Floor, Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
Cardiff CF25 0BL

Dear Sirs

re Ceredigion Community Review / Llangeitho Community Council

I apologise that I write in English but despite living in Llangeitho for 36 years my written Welsh, regrettably, is not sufficient for a letter of this importance.

I write in response to the draft proposal to enlarge Llangeitho Community council area to include the separate communities of Lledrod and Llangwryfon within a new community council with fewer councillors.

The current arrangement of the villages of Llangeitho, Llanbadarn Odwyn together with around half of the village of Penuwch is working well. The council's members all live within approximately 3 miles from centre of Llangeitho ie within a fairly close area, and look after the interests of Llangeitho village, Llanbadarn Odwyn and Penuwch village, at no or very little cost, since few even claim the travelling allowance to which they are entitled. The play area is fully maintained, the roundabout is tidy and raised beds of flowers greet visitors on every road, we have street lights and tidy bus shelters making these villages very pleasant places in which to live.

This is a cohesive community which looks towards the local town of Tregaron, some 4-5 miles away for most of its requirements, school, doctor's surgery, pharmacy etc. When we need to look further afield we travel to Lampeter which is just under 10 miles away. This dependency upon Tregaron is indicated by our post codes all of which come under the SY25 umbrella.

Each of the separate communities of Lledrod and Llangwryfon look towards Aberystwyth as indicated by their post codes -all SY23. People from those communities do not come down to Llangeitho nor go across to Penuwch, nor do they use Tregaron as a local town.

Hence if there were to be an enlarged 'Llangeitho Community Council' including Lledrod and Llangwryfon council members from those communities would have little interest in using their energies and the local precept on behalf of Llangeitho or Penuwch. This would lead to a dysfunctional council with little interest from councillors nor their constituents in the whole area.

The interests of Llangwryfon would be better served by becoming part of Llanrhystud or Llanfarian whilst the interests of Lledrod would be better served by becoming part of Llanilar or Llanfarian.

Equally, accepting that the County Council wants to reduce the number of Community Councils, the interests of Llangeitho Llanbadarn Odwyn and Penuwch would be best served by putting the nearly half of Penuwch which is currently within the Nantcwnlle Community area (this community council is scheduled to be amalgamated elsewhere) into Llangeitho Community Council area. This would reunite the village and outlying properties of Penuwch which has a natural affinity with Llangeitho as well as increasing the number of electors within the Llangeitho Community council area .

Acommunity council should represent a genuine geographically coherent community not, as a result of the 'numbers game' a hotch-potch of separate and very diverse communities.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]



02 May 2024

Chief Executive
Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales
Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
CARDIFF
CF24 0BL

Dear Chief Executive

Ceredigion Community Review 2024

I write to you as an elector in Llangeitho Ward, Ceredigion, in response to your Draft Proposals.

I'm disappointed and concerned to read that you propose merging Llangeitho Ward with Lledrod Ward and Llangwryfon Ward. As one who has always lived in the area, I cannot recall any connections at all between Llangeitho and Lledrod and Llangwryfon.

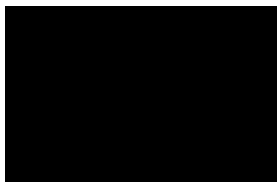
As a local businessman, I believe that changing the current ward would weaken local democracy because we would be represented by some councillors who had no knowledge of our community nor any understanding of our domestic and business problems.

I'm sure that the financial and environmental cost of running the proposed new Ward would also be harmful. Currently, many of the councillors can walk to meetings, but this would have to change when committees are held in either Lledrod or Llangwryfon. They would have to travel in cars, and it's highly likely that councillors would then claim travel expenses, and the increased use of cars would certainly have a detrimental effect on the environment.

For the reasons given above and several others, I believe that the best thing for the community would be to retain the current boundaries of Llangeitho Ward. At a time where there is much emphasis on value for money, I strongly believe that this is provided by the councillors of the current Llangeitho Ward, as they ensure that electors receive the services that they deserve by working together with our County councillor.

I hope that you will read and consider my comments.

Yours sincerely



Ceredigion 181 – [REDACTED] (Clerk) – Penbryn Community Council

Annwyl Swyddog/Dear Official

Atodaf ohebiaeth ar ran Cyngor Cymuned Penbryn ynghylch yr arolwg i ffiniau Cyngorau Cymuned Ceredigion.

I hereby attach Penbryn Community Council's response to the proposed changes to Community Council boundaries in Ceredigion.

Gyda diolch/With thanks

[REDACTED]

Clerc/Clerk

Cyngor Cymuned Penbryn Community Council

Dear Official

The latest meeting of Penbryn Community Council was held on the evening of Tuesday 7 May and there was a lively and constructive discussion on the recommendations and conclusions delivered by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales following a review of the Community Arrangements for Ceredigion County Council.

As the discussion began, the basis and context for the consultation were set out, namely that it sought to ensure viable and sustainable Community Councils with each council covering a total of approximately 800 electors. The original study sought to reorganise the boundaries of smaller Community Councils in the north of the County in order to achieve that threshold.

Having read the recommendations in this report, it is clear that the original guidance had been revised and broadened substantially to encompass Community Councils serving an average of approximately 1750 electors.

All members felt in general that the need to review the boundaries of less populated Councils deserved some study. However, they did not consider it justifiable to increase the minimum number of electors to the higher recommended number. Penbryn Council has just under 1100 electors at the moment, which is considered ideal by current Councillors in maintaining balanced accountability between the Council and electors. Local decisions are not taken beyond the core of the community.

As such, what intensified the dissatisfaction is the fact that the number of Councillors on the proposed Llangrannog and Penbryn Community Council will decrease to 7 compared to the current 21 (11 for Penbryn and 10 for Llangrannog). More responsibilities are expected to be transferred to Community Councils in the future, therefore won't the burden on so few Councillors be enormous? Will prospective councillors wish to shoulder all such onerous responsibilities in the future? Who would want to be a Community Councillor in the future?

It is also difficult to understand what financial savings can be made, since all Councillors provide their services completely voluntarily. No Councillors claim the allowance available to them, so these changes do not result in any financial benefit.

Under the current system it is likely that each area or village is represented on Penbryn and Llangrannog Community Councils. With 21 members between us, knowledge and understanding of all neighbourhoods within the boundaries can be guaranteed. But if there are only seven members, would it ever be possible to deliver the same capability for all neighbourhoods in the area?

There is a direct link between Councillors and electors in terms of how decisions are made, but this is in danger of becoming dissociated, leading to alienation.

We hope very much, as members of Penbryn Community Council, that we have expressed our opposition to these recommendations in a constructive, sincere and coherent manner. We thank you for your impartial attention and hope that these comments will enrich and expand this discussion.

With thanks



Clerk, Penbryn Community Council

Ceredigion 182 – [REDACTED] – Llanddewi Brefi

To whom it may concern,

I wish to register my strongest objections to the proposed boundary changes in Ceredigion.

In our village of Llanddewi Brefi the resulting reapportioning of funding will lead to:

- a) the reduction in the available budget for each redefined ward with the inevitable infighting for their respective allocations
- b) the loss of well used community facilities which include: the village hall and recreation area consisting of football field and stand (the village team is part of a very active local league); children's playground; village annual show ground; newly established community garden; very popular pop-up cafe
- c) the loss of community of community council members and their multiple roles which will inevitably become more onerous for the remaining few
- d) the loss of community services eg. maintenance of the graveyard; street lighting; upkeep of open areas
- e) the loss of community identity arising from the inevitable curtailment of important community events: the annual village show and other celebrations; Young Farmers and Youth Club activities; the bi-weekly meetings of the local branch of the W.I.; the twice-a-week opening of the community cafe - all of which depend upon the village hall and recreation grounds for their existence and which, as mentioned above, would be threatened with closure

Health and well-being are topics currently much discussed amongst individuals on social media and health care professionals, in the wider press, and debated in parliament. Ceredigion is a rural county with a dispersed population. Amalgamation of the existing Community Councils, rather than improve this situation, will make the support of community interests more difficult to sustain as the areas covered by each new ward will be more extensive, more diverse due to geographical constraints and therefore less easy to engage with. Not to forget the increased workload on a significantly reduced number of councillors, all of whom serve their communities voluntarily, and the increased travelling involved to attend meetings. This latter impinging significantly on current financial and environmental concerns.

Communities are made up of real people, not numbers on a sheet of paper or data fed into an algorithm. Therefore these issues presented above must urgently be taken into account so that any decision which results in the diminishing of a community's identity and the health and well-being of its members is avoided.

Decisions made now affect us both now and in the future. Therefore, for the benefit of both present and future, I urge you not to implement these changes.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Llanddewi Brefi
Tregaron
Ceredigion
[REDACTED]

17-4-24

Dear Sir/ madam

I moved to Llanddewi Brefi 14 years ago and really enjoy and appreciate the village community that I live in.

I understand that should the boundaries change we may loose most of our community councillors who are committed members who choose not to receive any imbursements for giving up their time to serve our community.

our council have been active with obtaining grants so that we were able to celebrate the Queens Jubilee and King Charles's coronation.

We have planted a community garden and held several village events such as fireworks night and childrens Christmas event with Father Christmas attending all of which are well attended and looked forward to by our young families of which we have a good number living here.

The village community centre/ hall is a very important facility hosting our village events, meetings and regular, weekly Art and craft group, youth club, YFC, WI meetings Annual Village show, Dewi Stars FC and community cafe.

our community council have taken on the extra role of trustees for the community centre / hall and oversee its upkeep, improvements etc.

This is such an asset to the village as without their involvement we may not have a hall at all, and this would be a colossal loss especially the loss of the community cafe which provides a warm, friendly place for people to come for companionship, information, our local vicar and PCSO call in regularly so people can discuss any issues etc with them.

The cafe is fully funded, we rely on donations only.

Should we lose six out of ten of our councillors the remaining four may not be able to continue with supporting the community centre and other cuts to amenities may have to be made. ie street lighting.

Please I ask you to reconsider, we recently lost our village shop, another blow and I think losing our village hall would break the heart out of our vibrant village.

yours Sincerely



[REDACTED]
Llanddewi Brefi
[REDACTED]

19th April 2024.

Dear Sir/Madam.

I am disappointed to hear about the proposed boundary changes and the possibility of a negative impact on local services which I personally depend.

The Community Hall/Hub is a life line to me and I feel this could be in jeopardy should our community councillors currently standing at ten be reduced to four as proposed, they may not be able to continue with their role as Hall/Community Centre Trustees. There may well be less funding available for the Village as a whole.

The current arrangement seems to work very well so I ask you to please reconsider these Boundary Changes.

Yours Faithfully
[REDACTED]

[redacted]
Tregaron
Ceredigion
[redacted]

1st May 2024

Dear Sir or Madam

I am not in agreement with the proposed merge of the community council in the Llanddewi Brefi area.

I understand if this merger goes ahead we will not have money to run the Village Hall which I access during W1 and for Llanddewi. This community is important as it keeps me in touch with people & friends.

To lose this will have a detrimental affect on the community.

It also means that the community council will not be able to put on the items for the

community council.

Yours Sincerely



The Chief Executive
Local Democracy and Boundary Committee Wales

Hastings House

Filya Court

Barcliff

CF 24 0BL

[REDACTED]
Llanddewi Brefi
Tregaron
SY25 6RS

Ms Shereen Williams
Chief Executive
Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales
Hastings House
Fitzalan Place
Cardiff
CF24 0BL

06/05/2024

Dear Ms Williams,

I am writing to object to the commission's draft proposals to merge Llanddewi Brefi parish with Llanfair Clydogau and Llangybi.

Llanddewi Brefi is the largest village in the area, in one of the largest parishes in mid-wales and half the residents of the parish live in remote isolated areas outside the village.

In recent years, the village has lost its primary school, its shop, the post office, one of its pubs, and bus services have been cut, with no service at all at weekends.

The village hall and recreation grounds are run by the Community Council, partly funded by the precept, and play a very important part in keeping a sense of community.

If Llanddewi Brefi is only represented by 4 councillors, this service would be under threat if the proposed merger goes ahead. Councillors from other areas will not support the level of spending needed in our village if it means their residents will pay more council tax as a result, and if it cannot be maintained we could lose our hall, playing fields, and football ground. Other services in the village that could also be under threat include maintaining the churchyard and providing all-night street lighting in the village.

The community council has been successful in bringing funding to the village for local events and improving facilities at the community centre. This will not be possible when the number of volunteer councillors is reduced from 10 to 4, and councillors from other wards are not likely to take such an interest in our community.

As a community, we are linked with Tregaron, and Ysgol Henry Richard was formed by closing our village school and merging with Tregaron primary and secondary schools. Both Llanfair Clydogau and Llangybi have stronger links with Lampeter and are part of a different county council ward. These differences have also been highlighted by Ceredigion County Council in previous boundary reviews.

There have been no major changes in the last 10 years that justify a change in community boundaries, and our access to councillors and meetings will be poorer as a result of the proposed changes, with possibly only one meeting in four held in the village.

If the point of the review is to make local government more effective and convenient, the draft proposals do nothing to achieve this goal. The only reason for the changes seems to be to comply with a poorly considered council size policy and I hope that the Commission will look at alternatives to these proposed changes.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Llanddewi Brefi
Tregaron
Ceredigion
[REDACTED]

Chief Executive
Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales
Hastings House
Fitzalan Place
Cardiff
CF24 0BL
05 May 2024

Dear Ms Williams,

I am writing because I do not agree with the plan to combine Llanddewi Brefi with Llanfair Clydogau and Llangybi. Llanddewi Brefi is a larger community, and with many people living in rural places some distance from the village, it is important to keep a community focus. We have already lost a lot of services like the school, shop, post office, a pub, and weekend bus services, and this plan threatens the future of our community centre and remaining services.

Our village hall and recreation ground are important to us, and if we only have 4 councillors, they might not be able to get a budget approved with enough funds to keep these facilities maintained. This could mean losing our village hall, playing fields, and football ground. Other services like churchyard maintenance and street lights all night could also be under threat.

Our community council has been successful in getting grants for events and improving the community centre. But if we have fewer councillors, this might not continue, especially if they're from other places and don't care as much about our village.

We have close links to Tregaron, and our school joined with Tregaron's schools. Llanfair Clydogau, Cellan, Llangybi, and Silian are all closer to Lampeter and have a different county councillor.

Nothing major has changed here in the last 10 years to need new boundaries. We will have less contact with councillors and fewer meetings in our village if the changes happen. The review should aim to make local government more convenient and effective, but these changes won't improve anything and only seem to follow a badly thought-out policy about council size. I hope the Commission will think about other options.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Llanddewi Brefi

Tregaron

Ceredigion
[REDACTED]

07446769450

5th May 2024

Dear Ceredigion County Council

We are writing to express our concern regarding our Parish Councilors in Llanddewi Brefi being cut from ten to four and holding meetings in other parishes. During these meetings the community and locals can have a voice. Not everyone can drive or has transport to be attending in different parishes.

Our village hall is a busy place holding youth clubs, young farmers clubs, pop up cafes, cawl evenings and other significant events that the community enjoys together. This is essential to busy working lives and living rurally promoting social time, that is much needed if you're working, farming and living rurally.

We have two teenagers who attend YFC and Youth Club and enjoy both. They also attend the village show with their horses and dogs and enjoy this event with their friends alongside. One of my daughters enjoys football and for this to continue the ground needs to be maintained.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Bryn Carregog
Llanddewi Brefi
Tregaron
Ceredigion
[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

5th May 2024

Dear Ceredigion County Council,

I am very sad to hear that our Parish Councillors in Llanddewi Brefi could be cut from ten to four. We have so many lovely things going on in our village and without all our councillors many of these will not be able to continue.

I love our Village Show and attend every year with my horse and dogs. I also go to YFC and lots of other activities which are held in the village hall.

Our Parish Councillors give up their time to do all these things for us and take no payment. How can you take this away from us, we will have nothing left to do in our village.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Bryn Carregog
Llanddewi Brefi
Tregaron
Ceredigion
[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

5th May 2024

Dear Ceredigion County Council,

I am very upset to hear we may be losing some of our Parish Councillors in Llanddewi Brefi.

I am a keen footballer and use the playing field regularly with my friends, I understand that if cutbacks are made, grass cutting maybe at risk and we wont be able to use the field.

I also attend the youth club which is very good and I wouldn't want this to close either. It is run by our Parish Councillors, who give up their time for free to provide this for us.

There are lots of other activities which I attend with my friends and family including our village show, if these thing go there will be nothing left for us.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Llanddewi Brefi
Tregaron
Ceredigion
[REDACTED]

Telephone [REDACTED]

5th May 2024

Dear Ceredigion County Council,

I am writing to express my concern regarding cutting our Parish Councillors in Llanddewi Brefi from ten to four and holding meetings in other parishes. Our parish council meetings are well attended and give locals a chance to have a voice. Many people in the community are elderly or do not drive, how are they supposed to attend meetings elsewhere? We have no bus service in the evenings, plus if you do drive, people have to take into consideration the price of travel.

The village hall is thriving and we have an amazing cafe which is open twice a week. The cafe is very well attended and is staffed by parish councillors, how will this continue if we are cut down to four councillors? We even have a mini bus which brings in vulnerable adults with learning difficulties and mental health problems, there are few facilities available for these people, this will be something else they lose.

We have an amazing village show every year, which is held at the village hall, my grandchildren always attend the show with their ponies and dogs. One of my grandchildren is very keen on football and uses the playing field regularly with her friends from the village. Grass cutting and maintenance need to be kept up for these things to happen.

Our youth club is also held in the village hall and staffed by parish councillors, YFC is held in the hall.

They are many other events, meetings and activities held in our village hall, all of which are well attended. How can you possibly cut our councillors down from ten to four, which will mean cutting back on many of the things mentioned above in an already deprived area. May I also add none of the parish councillors take an allowance, they put in all this work for nothing. Typical government way of thinking, dispense with people who work hard for little or no return and pay thousands for extra members of the Senedd, how does this add up?

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
LLanddewi Brefi,
Tregaron,
Ceredigion.
[REDACTED]

3rd May 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Reference: Boundary changes for the parish of Llanddewi Brefi

As a resident of Llanddewi Brefi since 1964 I object strongly to the proposed changes to the boundary of this parish. I have seen this community council work hard to ensure that this community is vibrant and inclusive. The Welsh language is important to this community, the council have ensured that this has been recognized and preserved whilst encouraging non Welsh speakers to be a part of the village life. It is always a challenge to bring together newcomers and those who have lived in the area all their lives, this council has put this at the heart of all their work and decisions.

The proposed new council will be removed from the area, be amalgamated with a different catchment area for school, work and amenities. Llanddewi Brefi has always had close links with Tregaron rather than Lampeter. It will be extremely difficult to ensure that the needs of this community are met when the majority of the proposed council will have different priorities.

Llanddewi Brefi have a realistic budget to support their decisions to improve the whole community. The other areas have significantly smaller budgets with less facilities to support, how will this community be able to survive if the support is cut dramatically. This council has responsibility for maintaining the cemetery, the community centre with playing fields, a car park, to name just a few of the financial responsibilities. This is of great concern and could break what is a thriving community.

Please reconsider this proposal as I can see no financial or material improvement as a result of this boundary change.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 193 - [REDACTED] - Llanddewi Brefi

[REDACTED]
LLanddewi Brefi,
Tregaron,
Ceredigion.
[REDACTED]

3rd May 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Reference: Boundary changes for the parish of Llanddewi Brefi

As a resident of Llanddewi Brefi since 1985 I object strongly to the proposed changes to the boundary of this parish. Llanddewi Brefi parish is the largest geographical parish in Wales, to enlarge it even further is taking the decisions away from local people, I'm sure that is not your intention.

The current and past councilors have worked hard to ensure that this is a vibrant, welcoming and inclusive parish. The number of voluntary organizations in the area is due in no small part to their continued support. The voluntary sector is constantly looking for more volunteers to support facilities and groups, our community councilor's lead by volunteering as an example to others. There are currently 10 councilors, the work is spread evenly between them, the proposal of 4 for the ward of Llanddewi Brefi would be unsustainable and the village would suffer dramatically.

The village hall is run by the community council as holding trustees, this centre is the hub of the village, there is a real threat that this facility would be lost if the council boundaries changed. The current councillors have excelled at applying and succeeding in obtaining grant funding to improve facilities and put on events and activities which have greatly helped in ensuring the cohesion of the community. Making sure that newcomers and existing villagers get to know each other and understand each others needs is important for a successful community.

The proposal will mean that the council meetings will be held in various areas within the proposed boundary. This is taking away the opportunity for resident to express their concerns at a council meeting and to observe the meeting. Most of the current councillors walk to the council meeting, this will be impossible in future, this is a retrograde step when all councils should be encouraged to be environmentally aware. None of the current councillors are paid or claim expenses, therefore there would be no financial gain to this proposal.

This area was designated part of the Communities First funding due to the high level of depravation in this community, the proposed areas to amalgamate with do not have this issue and are therefore completely unsuitable.

I ask you to think again on this proposal as this is a vibrant community with significant interest in the council with a recent bye election having six candidates for two vacancies. This is unheard of in most communities in Ceredigion but shows that this council is the beating heart of our community.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Local Democracy and
Boundary Commission for Wales
Hastings House
Fitzalan Place
Cardiff

CF 24 0BL

To whom it may concern,
I do not agree with the proposed boundary changes for Llanddewi - Brefi Community Council.

I am worried that we will lose the village hall, and all the activities, and social events that take place there.

I am a great follower of Dewi Stars football team. This plan threatens the upkeep of the park, and if this cannot be maintained, the football team will no longer be able to play in the village. Due to my health I rely totally on the

village for my social life. I help with the show, the carnival and other events. This is important to me. My life would be seriously impacted in a negative way, if the Community Centre and Llanddewi-Brefi community events could not happen.

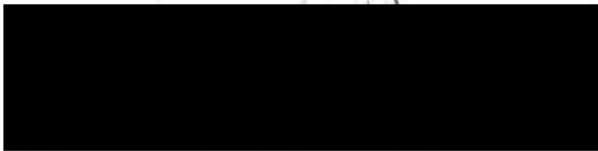
Yours sincerely



Llanddewi-Brefi

Tregaron

Ceredigion



Local Democracy and
Boundary Commission for Wales.

Hastings House

Fitzalan Place

Cardiff

CF 24 0BL.

To whom it may concern,

I do not agree
with the proposed boundary changes for
Llanddewi - Brefi Community Council.
I am worried that we will lose the
village hall, and all the activities, and
social events that take place there.
Also the street lighting is important
for me to get around the village.
I have lived in Llanddewi - Brefi for
twenty years. It is a close knit
supportive community that is important
in supporting me with my well being.
The village has a good relationship

with the Community Council which will be broken by combining with the other areas.

I will not be able to attend meetings held in other areas.

Each village has its own special identity culture, history and ways of working. Lumping us all together ignores all this, and does nothing to support or enhance ~~our~~ each unique rural community, history and culture.

Yours sincerely,

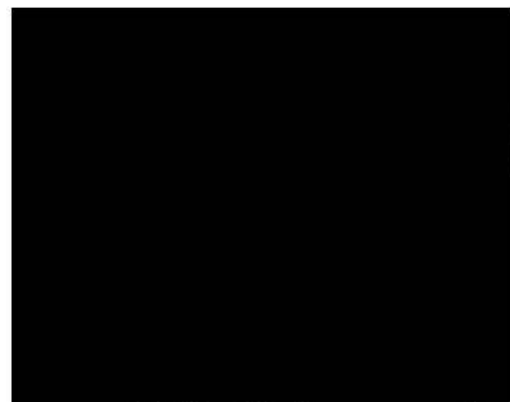


Llanddewi Brefi

Tregaron

Ceredigion





1st May 2024

The Chief Executive
Local Democracy and
Boundary Commission
for Wales Hastings Mause
Fitzalan Court
Cardiff
CF24 0BL.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I Strongly Disagree
with the proposal to Merge Llanddewi
Brefi Community Council with Llangeby,
Selan, Llanfair Clydogau and Cellan.

This merger will
place the model of about 800 people
per community council over as Llanddewi
Brefi community is already over
600 people. It feels like a office worker
has just put a pin in the map not

understanding the nature and
make up of the communities.

I lived in Llanddewi Brefi
for nearly 40 years and have
seen an eroding of the village
services. Having a community
council based in the villages
make sure that the villages
was vital service for the
young, teenagers, young families
Adults and the elderly.

If we have to share
our community councilors
and only have 4 councilors.
it will mean we could lose
our very important amenities
that the above demographic use.
The community council run

lots of special events bringing all our village together as one community. This is very important for our village well being.

If the councillor ^{have to} move from one meeting to another place there will be less chance people will be able to access the councillors to help with any problems arising in the community.

I feel this is a bad move on the part of the county council. eroding village life again

I am against the merger of the community council in the area mention at the beging of the letter.

Yours Sincerely



[REDACTED]
Llanddewi Brefi
Tregaron
[REDACTED]

30th April 2024

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am against the Merger
of the Community Council in the
area.

I understand that
this could leave Llanddewi Brefi
with less community councilor
who do a fantastic job in the
community and without a hall and
playground due to less funding.
These are an important resource
for the village.

I am against this
change.

yours [REDACTED]

Llanddewi, Brefi
Tregaron
Ceredigion
[REDACTED]

19-4-24

Dear SIR/ madam,

I do not like the idea of
the boundry changes.

It may mean loosing my
community centre which is very
important to me.

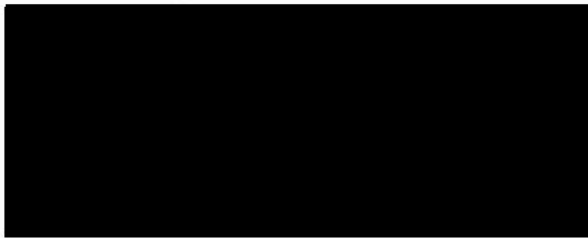
I have a learning difficulty and
my village friends help to support
me.

I go every week to an art/
craft afternoon, volunteer in our

community cafe twice a week
and enjoy going to village
events like christmas and
fireworks night.

I am unable to drive and rely
on others to take me places,
so being able to walk to the
community centre means I can
be independant and join in
with village life.

Yours sincerely,



Subject: Review of Ceredigion Community Councils

Date: Friday, 26 April 2024 at 14:15:19 British Summer Time

From: [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

I am writing to air my concerns about the proposed review of the Llanddewi Brefi Community Council. I understand that the proposal is to amalgamate the three Community Councils of Llanddewi Brefi, Llanybi and Llanfair Clydogau. Each of these areas would become wards in the new Community Council and the existing precept would be re-distributed meaning that the Llanddewi ward would have a reduction of about £3500 compared to the existing budget. This would mean that several important services would have to be reduced or stopped. Suggested savings include grass cutting at the playing field and the cemetery, street lights would not be lit overnight the village Christmas tree and lights would not be provided and the village community centre would lose its telephone and internet connection. Maintenance and cleaning of the hall would cease leading to the venue no longer being available. The hall is currently used regularly by several groups including the Women's Institute, the Dewi Stars football club, the youth club the Young Farmers and Cafi Dewi. The Cafi has been a great success since opening last October and is popular with both local people and visitors from outside of the community. This is a very useful hub for people to meet and socialise twice a week and along with the other earlier mentioned organisations would be sorely missed if they were unable to continue. In addition the centre is the venue for the annual show, the summer carnival and village Christmas events. The Community Centre is an important resource to the village and its use brings people together and fosters well being in the community.

I believe that the proposed change to the Community Council would be a retrograde step and respectfully request that it is not implemented.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Llanddewi Brefi

[REDACTED]



Virus-free www.avg.com

Subject: Community Review

Date: Saturday, 4 May 2024 at 14:37:21 British Summer Time

From: [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Sir or Madam

I wish to submit my objections to the proposed boundary changes for the reasons laid out in the Proposed Community Review.

My reasons are as listed below:

- I do not believe the Community actually needs "changing".
- The number of people living in the area is not changing to any large degree.
- There are no "new roads", very few new houses, or other buildings of note in the [REDACTED] area. In fact, some buildings are almost derelict.
- On speaking to many people living in the area, it is evident the majority wish to retain our unique Community Identity as it already is.
- At the present time, our Community Council is consistently run efficiently [REDACTED] and effectively by members of our own village.
- Other communities surrounding Llanddewi Brefi have their own unique identities.
- The comment "this might save money" makes me ask "who will save money", [REDACTED] as there needs to be more investments in these Communities, not less! [REDACTED] The Electorate in our Communities notably get the very basic services [REDACTED] provided. Therefore, what more savings are going to provide us with a "better" [REDACTED] Council service?
- I am unaware of anyone actually asking for a "Community Review"?
- I am unaware of our Community Council wanting or requiring a review?
- Have Welsh Ministers asked for a review, other than The Law as it stands?
- I believe it is absolutely necessary for the Local Democracy and [REDACTED] Boundary Commission to look after people in the future by actually listening to [REDACTED] their concerns, as they alone know what is best for them now, and in the future.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
Llanddewi Brefi
[REDACTED]

Subject: Community Review

Date: Saturday, 4 May 2024 at 14:43:40 British Summer Time

From: [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Sir or Madam,

I wish to oppose the Local Democracy & Boundary Commission Community Review with some of my observations below.

- Local identities are aligned with Tregaron (3.3 miles away)

Council size policy:

- Llanddewi Brefi and current associated wards are unlikely to see a dramatic increase in population but they remain stable within the current boundaries.
- There is no real justification in increasing the ratio of councillors to electors as quoted in Chapter 2 Council Size Policy, Item 2 "The Council Size Policy is not used prescriptively as in other types of reviews carried out by the Commission and acts as a guide."
- Without this "guide" there is no need for change. Existing boundaries and the communities within can retain their individual identities.
- Llanddewi Brefi Community Council is made up of unpaid volunteers who do a remarkable job for their community with all of them living within or close to Llanddewi Brefi.
- Having a reduced number of councillors will not serve this community well and will also necessitate councillors having to travel by car greater distances thus increasing their carbon footprint.
- The use of "should" in sentences suggests an obligation to accept these proposals that will go ahead regardless of any opposition.
- It is undemocratic when such proposals are put out for consultation from an unelected body who sit at desks making decisions the electorate cannot vote upon or even oppose through petitioning.
- This unelected body does not have any idea how these communities function or interact with each other, other than counting people and drawing lines on a map on a computer.
- Our councillors do know and understand their electorate and respond accordingly with the limited finances they are afforded, by reducing their numbers and indeed the precept, Llanddewi Brefi will go in to decline.

Yours Faithfully

[REDACTED]
Llanddewi Brefi,
Tregaron,
Ceredigion,
[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 202 – [REDACTED] (Clerk) – Lledrod Community Council

Dear Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales

Please see attached the response by Lledrod Community Council to the Community Review of the Ceredigion Principal Council area.

Thank you very much

[REDACTED]

(Clerk, Lledrod Community Council)

[REDACTED]

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLEDROD (LLEDROD COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Clerc/Clerk



12 May 2024

Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales
Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
Cardiff
CF24 0BL

Dear Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales

Response by Lledrod Community Council to the Community Boundaries Review 2023.

We write in response to the proposal to merge 3 Community Councils to create Llangeitho Community Council.

We disagree strongly with the proposal. This merger will not provide a fair reflection of the area currently served by Lledrod Community Council. Lledrod Community Council already includes 5 villages – Lledrod, Bronant, Ty'n Celyn, Blaenpennal and Bontnewydd. Representatives from these areas sit on the Council and ensure that all areas receive fair and balanced treatment.

Lledrod Community Council is responsible for:-

- maintaining and verifying the safety of the playground in the village of Bronant.
- maintaining the community's fields located in Bontnewydd.
- distributing funds received from EDF in the community.
- supporting Ysgol Rhosywlad which is part of Ysgol Gynradd Rhos Helyg.
- ensuring regular checks and maintenance for the 4 defibrillators
- updating information on the 4 noticeboards.
- checking grit boxes in the area.

Lledrod Community Council administers a grant received from EDF for turbines installed by Burnfoot Windfarm Limited, and is responsible for dealing with grant applications and distributing these funds among organisations in the community. Knowledge of the area is required in order to prioritise, and to ensure that organisations in the community are applying for this funding.

We believe that merging with 2 other Community Councils will lead to the loss of local activity. Community members will suffer because they won't be fairly represented by 3 councillors under this proposal. This will lead to a lack of engagement with the wider community, and a failure to ensure a voice for people in the community and that those voices are heard and contribute to decisions affecting their communities.

We believe that the boundary commission's proposal

- is undemocratic
- silences the voice of the people of the community,
- fails to provide fair representation for members

Current Councillors provide their time voluntarily to attend meetings and to undertake work in the community, but this proposal will lead to higher costs due to travelling to attend meetings held in a central location.

Nor do we agree that Llangeitho Community Council is the best choice for a name, since it indicates that Llangeitho will receive priority because Llangeitho is the largest village with the highest number of Councillors.

How will Councillors be selected for the new Community Council? Will there be elections, how will representation and a strong voice for all areas be ensured? Three councillors will not be able to represent 5 villages fairly. The current situation ensures representation from all areas with councillors who can demonstrate their broad experience, knowledge of the community and an understanding of the needs of local people.

There is concern about lack of control over the funding received by Lledrod Community Council from EDF, and that local organisations will lose out. The Community Council will also be responsible for administering and monitoring applications for grazing tenders each year.

Furthermore, there are also concerns about the safety of the playground, since Councillors currently undertake monthly inspections and risk assessment checks, and users know who to contact if any issues need to be raised.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Aaron Benjamin,

Cllr Eirwen Hughes,

Cllr Ieuan Jones,

Cllr Aled Hopkins,

Cllr Richard Herbert,

Cllr Owen James,

Cllr Aeronwen Edwards,

Cllr Arwel Hamer,

Cllr Ian Edwards.

Ceredigion 203 – [REDACTED] – Ceredigion Green Party

I am writing on behalf of Ceredigion Green Party to express our profound concerns regarding the proposed review of community councils in Ceredigion, as commissioned by the county council and overseen by the Local Government Boundary Commission of Wales.

Our primary contention lies in the fundamentally flawed nature of the review process, which was marred by the county council's imposition of arbitrary rules dictating the minimum number of electors required for the survival of a community council. By setting the threshold at 800 electors and stipulating that each ward within a community council must have at least 400 electors, the county council has effectively skewed the entire review in a direction that undermines the interests of our communities.

Furthermore, we wish to highlight that none of the community councillors representing the Ceredigion Green Party, particularly those from Faenor and Borth, concur with the proposed plans. Moreover, the affected community councils themselves have voiced their strong opposition to these recommendations.

One of the most alarming implications of these proposed changes is the foreseeable impact on council tax payments. The arbitrary division of communities based solely on electoral numbers will result in unjust and disproportionate swings in council tax payments, even among properties separated by nothing more than a street. Such erratic shifts in tax burdens are not only inequitable but also unsustainable for our residents.

In light of these grave concerns, the Ceredigion Green Party staunchly opposes the draft recommendations put forth by the commission. We firmly believe that the entire review process should be halted until a comprehensive review of all community councils across Wales is conducted under uniform rules established by the Welsh Government. It is imperative that fairness, transparency, and community interests are upheld throughout this process.

We urge the Local Government Boundary Commission of Wales to reconsider its approach and to prioritize the genuine concerns and well-being of the communities it serves. We stand ready to engage in constructive dialogue and collaboration towards achieving a more equitable and sustainable framework for our community councils.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion Green Party

Ceredigion 204 – [REDACTED] (Clerk) – Aberystwyth Town Council

Please see below response to the review from Aberystwyth Town Council.

We are grateful that the Commission has accepted a number of points made by Aberystwyth Town Council. However we would like to come back on some: Point 20 – the boundary through Aberystwyth University campus. Whilst, again, we are grateful that the commission has accepted our suggestion that the boundary should not pass through buildings on the campus (particularly those containing residents) we are concerned that the proposal moves the whole of Aberystwyth Art Centre and Aberystwyth University's international politics building into Sulien ward within the community of Llanbadarn.

Aberystwyth Art Centre and the international politics building are important parts of the town of Aberystwyth. Many town events are held there, including conferences, launches and occasional royal visits. Representatives of the Town Council are naturally expected to attend these occasions and often to take a role in them as local representatives; Aberystwyth's Mayor is invited to various occasions at these areas, including graduation ceremonies every year. Moving the buildings into Llanbadarn will transfer these responsibilities to our neighbouring council and will make no sense to the local community (including, we believe, people in Llanbadarn) as the Art Centre and international politics department are regarded as key parts of the town of Aberystwyth.

We would be grateful if the commission could address the point made in our original submission without moving Aberystwyth Art Centre and the international politics department out of the town's jurisdiction.

In addition to the above, we also disagree with the proposed reduction in the number of Councillors, both specifically for Aberystwyth but also across Ceredigion as a whole. Town & Community Councils across Ceredigion are consistently taking on greater responsibilities, with more and more services being devolved from Ceredigion County Council each year. The responsibilities of Town & Community Councils in Ceredigion are already stretched thinly across the current number of Councillors, and any reduction would be detrimental to councils' effective operation

[REDACTED]

Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer



Aberystwyth Town Council

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



www.aberystwyth.gov.uk

Office opening hours: 10am-4pm Monday - Friday

Ceredigion 205 – [REDACTED] - Cymdeithas Mynydd Bach Society and Community Group

The Chief
Executive
Democracy & Boundary Commission for Wales
House, Fitzalan Court
CF24 0BL

Local
Hastings
Cardiff

13th May 2024.

Objection to the changes in Electoral Areas in Ceredigion.

Dear Sir,

I am submitting an objection to the proposed changes, because we do not think that it is in the best interests of the Community of Lledrod of the other Communities that are to be included in a larger area.

This consultation should not have been introduced at this time when the rural communities are concerned with other issues critical to their lives.

The rural areas in Ceredigion, who are largely dependent on farming, are currently facing problems due to the adverse weather which has disrupted normal activities, so have not had the time to consider the boundary proposals. We have seen some farmers working until 10.30pm when the drier days have allowed, to carry out groundworks so that cattle can utilise grazing. The sheep farmers have only just finished lambing, so again have not had time to consider community issues.

Combining so many smaller rural communities into large electoral areas will destroy local identities, and remove the ability for residents to converse easily with council representatives who they know and trust will safeguard their community. This must surely be basis of democracy.

We understand that seven more rural schools are planned for closure in Ceredigion which will further destroy rural communities, so without local representatives how can communities express their feelings and concerns on such matters.

It is clear from world events that food supplies will come under considerable pressures, in the not too distant future, so it is important that rural communities and the farming industry are safeguarded.

These proposals are not in the interest of rural communities or Wales or the UK. They may offer short term financial benefits, but will damage communities and the food supply and the national economy in the longer term.

These proposed electoral changes should not be implemented, without further consultation and consideration.

--

[REDACTED] - Ysgrifennydd - Secretary Cymdeithas Mynydd Bach Society and Community Group

Dear madame/sir,

I am writing as part of the boundary change consultation above which proposes the reduction of 7 councillors to 1 representative. One immediate concern of this would be the inevitably lowered representation of women in local governance, especially given already historically low participation (Emma Schofield 2024. Woman's Wales? The Dissonance and Diversity of Evolution through the Lives of when in Wales). A sole member for the whole Ysgubor-y-Coed area would not have the capacity to fully report and monitor the myriad of issues and problems (see list of council activity below), and would therefore be unable to fully represent the ward.

Ysgubor-y-Coed ward has a very different demographic to the villages

of Tre'r Ddol, Taliesin and Talybont. Having been involved with these other community councils with their larger size and naturally different priorities I am very concerned that the particular needs of Ysgubor-y-Coed ward will be completely lost. We are much more rural, a very large but sparsely populated ward, and therefore have different priorities that need full local representation to keep running a thriving area. I strongly urge you to consider that we are an exception to the policy of 400 electors per ward as the Commission notes that the

size policy is not prescriptive and acts as a guide only (See p 6 of the report).

I am also concerned that local amenities such as Yr Ystafell Haeearn and St Michael's church - both thriving community hubs - may see a financial loss following amalgamation with Llangynfelyn and Ceulanamesmawr community councils.

Following is a list of recent Activity by Ysgubor-y-Coed Community Council:

1. Petition to Welsh Government for a reduction in speed limit through the villages of Eglwysfach and Ffwrnais.
2. Protest march attended by over 100 people, led by community councillors, and included our local County Councillor and Senedd Member.
3. Production of a community film about the speed limit issue.
4. Representation in local and national press, as well as BBC/S4C news coverage around the speed limit issue.

The passion showed by Councillors towards this and other issues would be lost if a sole x1 representative would be campaigning for Ysgubor-y-Coed on a much larger area Community Council.

What Ysgubor-y-Coed Community Council (7 community councillors) does on a regular basis:

1. It consults on planning applications.
2. It supports local enterprises and events with small grants drawn from a small precept.
3. It regularly co-operates with local groups such as the WI to initiate, organise, and run special events e.g a community barbecue, coronation celebration, fundraising, etc.
4. Provides and maintains the Council and community website which are crucial in such a rural area.

5. Provides and maintains public information notice boards.
6. Provides and maintains Public Access Defibrillators.
7. Ensures that all street lights within the villages are working properly.
8. Provides and maintains verges on various lanes.
9. Monitors and reports on problems to both the NMWTRA (North and Mid Wales Traffic Agency) and Ceredigion County Council on the many roads within the ward (approx 30 miles of Trunk and B roads - not including smaller roads which can be even more difficult to supervise).
10. Monitors and reports on problems with the CADW car park including bringing pressure to bear in clearing rubbish and fly tipping from the Ffwrnais car park and at the moment collaborating with CADW to improve the car park surface.
11. Supervises, on behalf of CADW, the water wheel in Ffwrnais
12. Monitors and reports on problems with the Dyfi Junction BR station and actively lobbies British Rail over improving the access to Dyfi Junction station.
13. Monitors and maintains local public benches.
14. Collaborates with the RSPB at the Ynys Hir Reserve - an area of 800 hectares containing some really important sites for wildlife including Wales' only wintering population of Greenland White-fronted Geese.
15. Applies for specific grants including a recent one for restoring the old phone box which houses one of the defibrillators.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED],

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 207 – Cllr Rhodri Evans – Llangeitho Ward

Dear Shereen Williams,

As the Councillor for the Llangeitho Ward, I feel quite agrieved by the proposal put forward for these two communities that I represent by the boundaries commission.

The two community councils that I represent i.e. Llangeitho and Llanddewi Brefi work very hard throughout the year to serve their residents. These two communities are rich in history, heritage, Welsh Language and for these communities to amalgamate to make larger entities, would jeopardise all of this.

As you can imagine, there has been a great deal of unrest within our communities due to these proposals, and several public meetings held to discuss the draft paper. The proposals as they stand do not make any sense whatsoever. I have attached the consultation response that has been sent by Llanddewi Brefi and Llangeitho Community Councils. They have listed all the reasons why the commission need to reconsider their initial draft response, and I urge you to listen to their concerns.

My initial shock is that there is no option at all for Community Councils to stay as they are. Whereas I can understand if you think that certain boundaries need to be looked at, there are Community Councils within Ceredigion who are doing commendable work within their areas and should not be changed.

If the commission feels that the status quo is not acceptable, then I encourage you to look at amalgamating Community Councils that fall within the Local Authority Electoral Wards. In my case, Llangeitho and Llanddewi Brefi would be a much better fit than joining Community Councils across different Local Authority Wards as is currently proposed!

I sincerely hope that you will take account of the many hundreds of letters that I can only imagine you will receive. When a consultation brings about such strong opposition, then surely the scoping document is incorrect. I therefore urge you to reconsider your position and listen to those electorates living in Ceredigion.

Kindest regards,

Rhodri Evans

Councillor for the Llangeitho Ward.

Ceredigion County Council.

Llanddewi Brefi Community Council

Response to Draft Proposals

May 2024

LLANGEITHO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

8 May 2024

Chief Executive
Boundary and Local Democracy Commission for Wales
Ground Floor
Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
CARDIFF
CF24 0BL
ymholiadau@ffiniau.cymru

Dear Sir/Madam,

We write to you as Llangeitho Community Council to state our response to the ward boundary change recommendations.

We have already sent a response to the consultation. This response included a description and map of Llangeitho Ward. Unfortunately, it appears that no attention was paid to this response, and that our Community Council's recommendations were not considered, despite our knowledge of the ward.

There is a sense amongst our Community Council that there is a lack of transparency in how the need for boundary changes has been presented. What exactly is the objective of the process?

We would therefore like to respond a second time to the consultation: -

1. We present the original Appendix again as it is the version unanimously preferred by the residents of our area, extending the boundary to include the whole Penuwch area. The Community Council commits to ensuring that the cohesiveness of the Llangeitho Community Council area is maintained, but there is a logical potential to extend the existing boundary to include the village and area of Penuwch as a whole. The boundaries reflect how the villages and dwellings have evolved over the years.

The Community Council will continue to maintain the historic character of the area, which is a **fundamental principle** of the guidelines for proposed boundary changes.

2. We do not regard the option proposed in the Boundary Commission report as sensible and actionable. This option is intended to amalgamate the wards of Llangeitho, Lledrod and Llangwryfon, and this option was unanimously rejected by the Community Council and residents of the area for the following reasons: -
 - The merger of the three communities will jeopardise the unique identity of the three wards.
 - The three communities mentioned to be merged into the new 'Llangeitho' Ward are very different from each other – all three are 'very rural' wards, with only very narrow roads in some places to reach them, which makes the travel between them slower than the Commissioners may realise.
 - There will be 3/4-hour travel time between one end of the ward to the other, which does not comply with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
 - The local service centre for the two communities of Llangwryfon and Lledrod in Aberystwyth is different from Llangeitho where the local service centre is in Tregaron.
 - Two wards will lose status, Llanbadarn Odwyn and Penuwch.
 - The proposed new Ward would be split between 3 County Councillors, who will also be responsible for other wards. Despite their best efforts, we assume that they will not be able to share and give decent attention to all the areas and Wards in their care.
 - Due to the cost of travelling so far between the communities within the ordinance proposed here, we assume that the time and costs of the Councillors will increase. Councillors of their desire to serve their community voluntarily have so far been happy not to claim the £150 annual charge. Costs to taxpayers will inevitably increase as Councillors have to claim the full annual charge of £150
 - The Clerk's costs and working hours will increase
 - We anticipate that there will be a problem for the public with the older people coming to join meetings
 - Joining via a Zoom link can be a problem, as the web network is very weak in these communities.
 - We anticipate troubles about the dispensation of the precept. It will be very difficult to be fair, and we anticipate major problems with how to prioritise the projects in the different communities.
3. Due to our recognition of our local area, a third option, which is to merge the existing Llanddewi Brefi Ward with Llangeitho Ward, can be considered for the following reasons: -
 - More effective and convenient -
 - One County Councillor rather than a Ward split between 3 County Councillors with responsibility for other areas and wards as well.
 - Two community wards that are more like each other.
 - Councillors not taking annual pay as it is convenient from a meeting distance perspective.
 - Clerk's travel costs reasonable.
 - Two clerks present between Llanddewi Brefi and Llangeitho not three as in the recommendation of joining Lledrod, Llangeitho and Llangwryfon?

- Three miles distance between the central villages of Llangeitho Ward and Llanddewi Brefi Ward
- Distance of meetings between Llangeitho and Llanddewi Brefi acceptable for public attendance.
- Five minutes travel time between the main village centres of the two Wards.
- Both wards' Local Service Centre in Tregaron.
- Henry Richard School in Tregaron is the high school for most children of Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Llangeitho and children of the Llanddewi Brefi area.
- Electorate close to boundary commission report requirements.
- There have been joint meetings between Llangeitho and Llanddewi Brefi to discuss the possibility of combining Wards
- Reduced environmental pollution during meetings in the two main villages.
- The support of the same County Councillor will continue over the two existing Wards and maintain consistency.

We attach a map for information to accompany the above recommendation. It shows the importance of retaining the three wards, Gwynfil, Penuwch and Llanbadarn Odwyn, as there are three different villages that need to have representation on the new Community Council and retain their local identity. The inclusion of Penuwch village would bring the electorate number close to the 400, required, in Penuwch ward.

We have a concern about the use of the Welsh language. The Language Commissioner aims to achieve one million Welsh speakers in Wales by 2050. We are currently able to run our meetings through the medium of the Welsh language (English records available).

We understand that merging wards within Pembrokeshire is a voluntary process. Where is the consistency and fairness between the two Counties and their residents?

Llangeitho Community Council is confident that we have met with the Boundary Commission criteria. We encourage members of the Boundary Commission to meet with us to discuss all aspects of the submission and our recommendations, and look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours faithfully,

 (Mrs)
Clerk of Llangeitho Community Council

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Key considerations

In preparing its response to the draft proposals, Llanddewi Breû Community Council's working group has had regard to the following considerations:

Council size policy

For Rural communities, Ceredigion County Council's policy is to:

- Ensure that a community ward has no fewer than 400 electors;
- Ensure that a community council area has no fewer than a total of 800 electors

However, the terms of reference state that the community review will focus on making boundary changes to ensure that community boundaries continue to reflect the identities and interests of the communities across the principal council area and that they are both effective and convenient. The figures identified in the Council size policy are not fixed or binding targets, and it is considered that the primary purpose of the review should be to identify those situations where changes in population, development, and infrastructure have materially affected local identity and lessened the effectiveness of local representation.

A comparison of elector numbers and map of neighbouring community council areas is included later in this report.

Community links

Under the current Local Development Plan, the settlement of Llanddewi Brefi is linked to the nearest town, and Rural Service Centre (RSC), of Tregaron. The Community council area is the largest in Ceredigion, spanning 18km, with an extensive rural and remote area linked to a substantial village community, identified as a sustainable linked settlement in the draft replacement LDP.

In the 2018 electoral review, the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales proposed to remove our current electoral ward of Llangeitho and Llanddewi Brefi, and amalgamate Llanddewi Brefi and communities within the existing Llanybi ward to form one electoral ward. In Ceredigion County Council's draft response¹ to that review, the following points were noted, and are relevant to the current review:

- "The communities of Llangeitho and Llanddewi Breû have strong links to the town of Tregaron and both communities are within the LDP service centre of Tregaron."
- "Llanybi and Llanddewi Breû are not a natural unit as Llanybi's community links are with the town of Lampeter not Tregaron"
- "previous boundary reviews [] have tended to recognise the cohesion and identity of the existing arrangements"

In the LDBC's introduction to the current review, it was noted that "Whilst school catchment areas are an important community tie, unless we are told otherwise, school catchment areas do not generally depend on communities or community wards". However, in the case

¹ Report to Council 12/04/2018, appendix A; https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/A_Draft-response-to-Boundary-Commission-copy.pdf

of Llanddewi Brefi, the community boundaries are substantially aligned with the catchment area of the 3-16 school, Ysgol Henry Richard, formed by amalgamation of Tregaron primary and secondary schools, and closure of Llanddewi Brefi school in 2014.

Geographically, road links from the expansive rural area to the east and southeast pass through the village and connect to the B4343 running northeast/southwest along the Teifi Valley. The surrounding upland area to the east, therefore, has strong links with the village as the focus of the existing community council area.

Community Council - Organisation and responsibilities

Llanddewi Brefi Community Council consists of ten Councillor members and employs a part-time Clerk as Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer.

The Community Council is the **Burial Authority** with responsibility for Llanddewi Brefi Cemetery and employs a part-time Burial Clerk.

Since December 2020, the Council has been **Sole Trustee** of the Llanddewi Brefi Village Hall and Recreation Ground charity (nr 523862). The activities of the charity are distinct from the responsibilities of the Community Council, but all Councillors are members of the Committee of Management, which holds separate meetings and submits reports to ordinary Council meetings. The Committee runs a Small Society lottery (100 club) to raise funds for the charity.

The Council is also responsible for **trustee appointments** to the Fuel Allotments charity (nr 500142). Both the Village Hall, and Fuel Allotments charities operate for the benefit of the inhabitants of the parish of Llanddewi Brefi.

Llanddewi Brefi Community Council supports its village hall through the precept under powers in the Local Government Act 1972, and Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, and provides telephone and broadband services in addition to contributions towards maintenance, cleaning, and operating expenses. This support is vital to the viability of the hall and recreation ground, and it is presently justifiable to provide this support through the precept for the Community Council area.

The charity's objects relate to the parish of Llanddewi Brefi, and all the neighbouring community wards (Llanfair Clydogau, Cellan, Llangybi, and Llangetho) have village halls that are run by management committees independent from their Community Councils, and without any financial support or provision of services.

Although it might be feasible to further amend the governing document of the charity to restrict the management committee to members of any future Llanddewi Brefi Ward, should the Community Council be combined with neighbouring areas as a result of this current review, it is doubtful that councillors of other wards within the same precept area could support the current level of funding, as it would increase the charge for electors in areas outside Llanddewi Brefi, and this would clearly threaten the sustainability of the charity.

A charity is also entitled to the impartial judgement of its trustees, directed solely towards achieving the best interests of the charity. At present, its objects are compatible with the powers and duties of a Community Council for the same area. **Should this situation change, the Charity Commission may not consider it appropriate for a Community Council covering an area outside of the charity's area of benefit to hold the title for its property, and reversion to an independent management committee of trustees could threaten its stability and sustainability.**

Community Council- Services

The Community Council uses its powers to provide the following services²:

- Provision and maintenance of the council and community website.
- Street lighting within the village.
- Public roadside seats.
- Christmas trees and festive lighting.
- Public notice and information boards.
- Maintenance of grass amenity areas within the village.
- Provision of a Burial ground.
- Maintenance and repair of the War Memorial.
- Public Access Defibrillator (<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/amenities/defibrillator/>)
- Youth Club

Of the total budget expenditure for 2023-2024, two thirds were allocated for provision of services, excluding administrative costs.

A comparison with neighbouring Community Council precepts, services and amenities is appended to this report.

Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD)

Llanddewi Brefi remains in the lowest 2% for access to services according to the WIMD; the county ward Llangeitho Lower-layer Super Output Area (LSOA)³ is ranked amongst the 2% most deprived areas in Wales in terms of access to services, according to the WIMD 2019, and Llanddewi Brefi was formerly within the Tregaron and Uplands Communities First area.

WIMD 2019 also notes the following deprivation statistics for Llangeitho LSOA:

In the 30 - 50% most deprived for OVERALL, ranked at 685 out of 1909 LSOA's. In addition, this is ranked 5 out of 46 LSOA's in the Ceredigion region.

In the 30 - 50% most deprived for income, ranked at 953 out of 1909 LSOA's. In addition, this is ranked 15 out of 46 LSOA's in the Ceredigion region.

In the 30 - 50% most deprived for education, ranked at 938 out of 1909 LSOA's. In addition, this is ranked 9 out of 46 LSOA's in the Ceredigion region.

² <https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/community-council/services/>

³ StatsWales WIMD 2019 <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Welsh-Index-of-Multiple-Deprivation/WIMD-2019/welshindexofmultipledeprivation2019-by-rank-decileandquintile-lowerlayersuperoutputarea>

In the 10% most deprived for housing, ranked at 114 out of 1909 LSOA's. In addition, this is 8 out of 46 LSOA's in the Ceredigion region.

Although Llanddewi Brefi was until recently served on regular key bus routes between Tregaron - Aberystwyth to the North and Lampeter to the South, the rising cost of living has a significant impact on the ability of residents to regularly travel to Aberystwyth or Lampeter and the village now has no bus service at all at weekends, further restricting access to facilities in the nearby towns of Tregaron and Lampeter.

The Community Council's proposed improvements to the community centre, together with the village hall's planned future expansion of outdoor sports equipment will have a significant impact in widening leisure use of the centre and playing fields and improving health and wellbeing through community activity.

In October 2023, supported through grants received by the Community Council as Sole trustee for the village hall, Llanddewi Brefi WI, Ceredigion Federation, set up a community café with the aim of creating a warm, friendly space accessible to all in response to the challenges of a rural community with poor access to facilities. Caffi Dewi has gone from strength to strength and has been fully supported and embraced by the community.

Development changes

There have been no recent developments that either cross or are situated at the limit of the current community boundaries, and no new or altered transport infrastructure projects have occurred since the last review or are planned in the next five years.

The process for the replacement LDP has been suspended, pending resolution of phosphate concerns in relation to the Afon Teifi SAC. Although Tregaron's sewage treatment plant may be upgraded in the next five years, Llanddewi Brefi currently has the only facility for phosphate stripping in Ceredigion. Any expansion that may occur once a new development plan is in place is likely to be limited to sites within or at the periphery of the village, at least 2km distance from the nearest community boundaries.

There are no residential allocations remaining within the settlement under the current development plan, and the balance of development between 'other locations' and the Rural Service Centre of Tregaron further restricts opportunity for development. There is therefore little potential for significant change in the next five years.

Current boundary arrangements

Community Review - Ceredigion 2023

Council Size Policy (Rural)		nr of electors									
Community ward		g 400									
Community Council area		g 800									
(a ratio of 85 electors/councillors is used in the LDBC variance calculations)											
Existing arrangement		Existing electorate						Projected (+5 years)			
Community Councils	Wards	Electors	Community Councillors	Electors per Councillor	Variance	Electors	Community Councillors	Electors per councillor	Variance		
	Llanddewi Brefi	513	10	51	-40%	543	10	54	-36%		
		513	10	51	-40%	543	10	54	-36%		
	Cellan	321	5	64	-24%	307	5	61	-28%		
	Llanfair Clydogau	220	5	44	-48%	210	5	42	-51%		
		541	10	54	-36%	517	10	52	-39%		
	Gwynfil	291	5	58	-32%	285	5	57	-33%		
	Llanbadarn Odwyn	100	2	50	-41%	92	2	46	-46%		
	Penuwch	287	5	57	-32%	257	5	51	-40%		
		678	12	57	-34%	634	12	53	-38%		
	Llangybi	325	6	54	-36%	341	6	57	-33%		
	Silian	165	3	55	-35%	171	3	57	-33%		
		490	9	54	-36%	512	9	57	-33%		
	Gartheli	164	2	82	-4%	161	2	81	-5%		
	Nantcwnlle	323	4	81	-5%	322	4	81	-5%		
	Trefilan	179	3	60	-30%	184	3	61	-28%		
		666	9	74	-13%	667	9	74	-13%		
	Llanfair Clydogau	541	10	54	-36%	517	10	52	-39%		
		541	10	54	-36%	517	10	52	-39%		
	Llangybi	490	9	54	-36%	512	9	57	-33%		
		490	9	54	-36%	512	9	57	-33%		
	Nantcwnlle	666	9	74	-13%	667	9	74	-13%		
		666	9	74	-13%	667	9	74	-13%		
	Llangeitho	678	12	57	-34%	634	12	53	-38%		
		678	12	57	-34%	634	12	53	-38%		
Llanddewi Brefi	513	10	51	-40%	543	10	54	-36%			

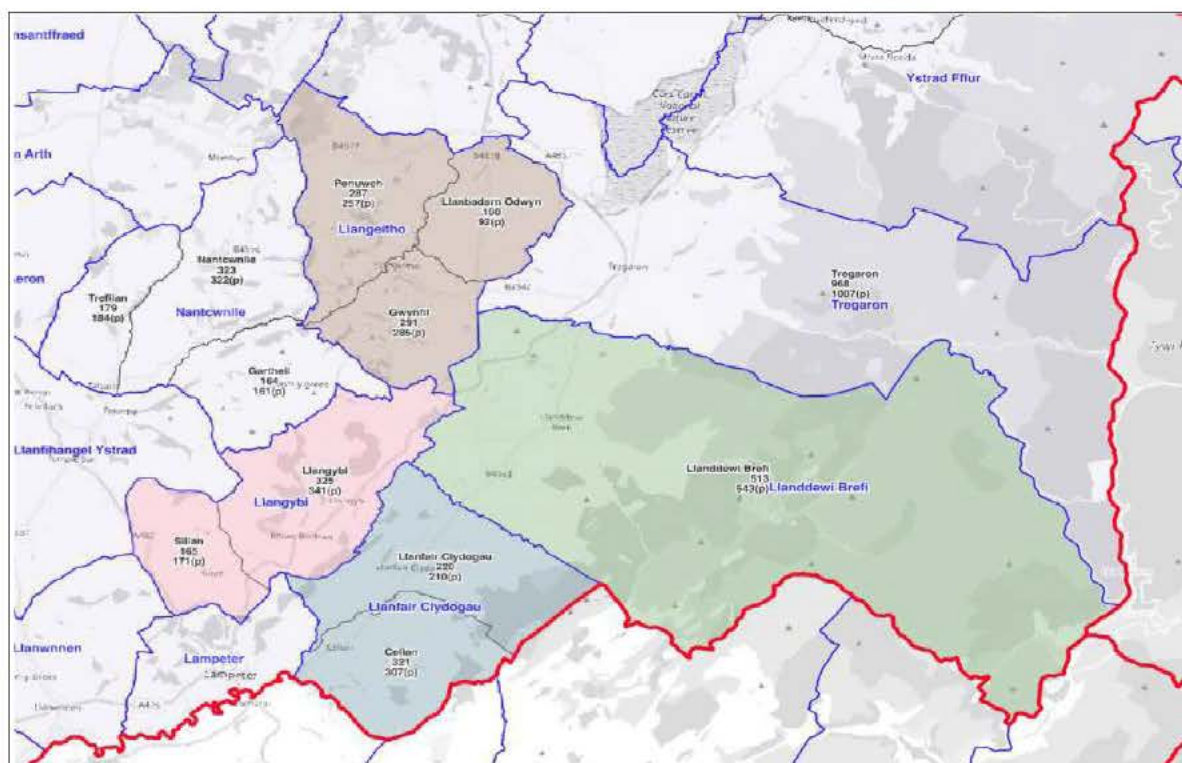


Fig: 1 Current boundary arrangements

The table and map above show the current arrangement of the three Community Councils bordering Llanddewi Brefi. The Commission have published the projected numbers of electors at the end a 5- year period, and these are noted (p) on the map.

All of these current council areas and wards fall short of the targets set by Ceredigion County Council. In the Pembrokeshire community review⁴, also taking place now, the adopted council size policy allows the 25 community councils with under 500 electors the 'option' to merge where they feel this would be more effective, or they are unable to fill vacancies. Where they do not wish to merge, their representation is being capped at 6 councillors.

Ceredigion only has 9 Community Councils under 500 electors but has adopted a much higher target of 800 electors per community in its approach to reorganization of smaller councils, without any option to remain as they are.

Anomalous boundaries

The following boundary anomalies have been identified, although these date from the earliest publication of OS maps:

- **Caer Llanio & Henblas/Yr Efail & Aelybryn 3**
Rhattal, Ty Rhattal, Caer Llanio, and Henblas are all within Llanddewi Brefi, and Yr Efail & Aelybryn might logically form part of this group of dwellings.
The Commission's draft proposals divide the property belonging to Yr Efail between two communities, and the boundary should be amended to reflect the property title as shown below.



Fig: 2 Boundary alterations

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- **Waunfawr/ Tyndomen 3**
The community boundary divides part of Waunfawr farmstead and might more appropriately follow the watercourse running west from the pond. However, the Community Council has no objection to the proposed boundary including Waunfawr within Llanddewi Brefi community.

⁴ <https://www.ldbc.gov.wales/reviews/10-23/pembrokeshire-community-review>



Fig: 3 Boundary alterations - Waunfawr

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The Commission's draft proposals also identified a boundary dividing part of the farmstead at Llys Hereg and the Community Council has no objection to the proposed change to include the whole of this property within Tregaron Community



Fig: 4 Boundary alterations - Llys Hereg

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Democratic effectiveness of current arrangements

Llanddewi Brefi community is not warded, and currently has 10 members following the by-election in July 2023.

An election was requested by community electors following the notice of casual vacancy, due to the resignation of two members in May 2023, and a contested poll was held on 20 July 2023 to fill these seats, with six candidates nominated. The by-election results demonstrated significant voter engagement with a total of 420 votes cast (inc. 3 rejected). Ballot box figures have not been published, but the distribution of votes indicates at least 41.3% turnout. The Community Council is aware that many reported only voting for one candidate, so ballot box turnout is likely to have been higher than the reported average for

local elections in Wales 2017 (41.8%)⁵, and similar to that of the last by-election in Lampeter Town in October 2022.

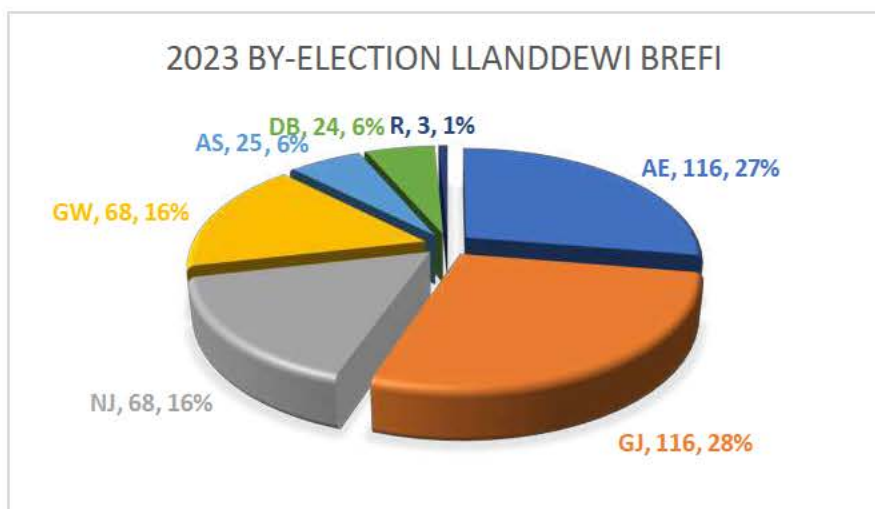


Fig: 5 By-Election results

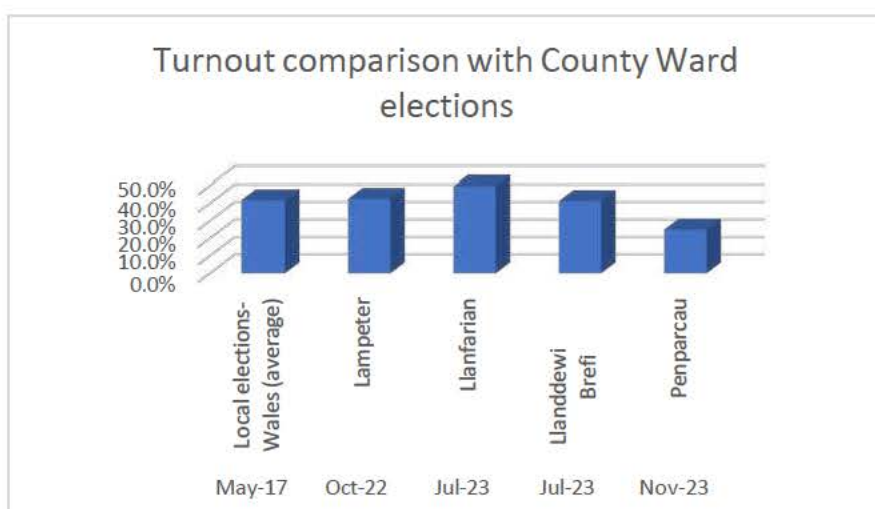


Fig: 6 By-Election turnout

Public participation

Public participation has increased substantially over the last two years since it has been noted as a regular item on the monthly agenda, with residents regularly attending and contributing to meetings from September 2022.

Engagement and Consultations

Llanddewi Brefi Community Council regularly consults residents on matters that affect them, and has carried out the following public consultations in recent years:

- Community Review 2023 - Public meeting presentation 16/04/2024
<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/ceredigion-community-review-2023/>
- Woodland creation schemes
 Brynglas & Blaendoethie

⁵ <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/research-reports-and-data/our-reports-and-data-past-elections-and-referendums/results-and-turnout-may-2017-wales-local-elections>

<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/tilhill-forestry-proposed-woodland-creation-plan-at-blaendoethie/>

<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/tilhill-forestry-proposed-tree-planting-scheme-at-brynglas/>

- Wind energy
Waun Maenllwyd
<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/agenda/agenda-llanddewi-brefi-community-council-03-03-2022/>
- Changes to speed limits
<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/proposed-changes-to-speed-limits/>
- [Parking Restrictions Consultation 2018](https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/parking-restrictions-consultation-2018/)
<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/parking-restrictions-consultation-2018/>
- [CONSULTATION 3 Llanddewi Brefi Primary School](https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/consultation-llanddewi-brefi-primary-school/)
<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/consultation-llanddewi-brefi-primary-school/>
- [PUBLIC MEETING 3 Flood Damage](https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/public-meeting-flood-damage/)
<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/public-meeting-flood-damage/>
- [PUBLIC MEETING 3 05/02/2019](https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/public-meeting-05022019/) (flood resilience)
<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/public-meeting-05022019/>
- [Review of Electoral Arrangements](https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/review-electoral-arrangements/)
<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/review-electoral-arrangements/>
- [CONSULTATION 27/02/2017](https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/consultation-27022017/) (Mobile phone mast)
<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/consultation-27022017/>
- Definitive Map reclassification order 1991 « Llanddewi Brefi » Roads used as Public Paths. <https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Case-Reference-516099-Llanddewi-Brefi-CC-copy.pdf> (2015)

Representation

Llanddewi Brefi was once one of the largest parishes in rural Wales and remains one of the largest and most rural in Ceredigion.

Approximately half of its electors live outside the village itself, and the geographical and spatial spread of boundaries necessitates a lower ratio of councillors to electors to ensure effective representation, and to provide the current level of services which rely on volunteer input in addition to financial support.

Audit 2022-2023

An ongoing review of governance and financial arrangements and policies has ensured compliance with new and updated legislation. The measures established over the last three years have resulted in an unqualified audit opinion from Audit Wales for the year ending March 2023, and the Community Council is working towards qualification for general powers of competence.

Reports

- [Annual report of the Council for the year 2022/23](#)
- [Annual report of the Council for the year 2021/22](#)
[Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report LIBCC 2022](#)

Community Council Projects

Llanddewi Brefi Community Council consistently aims to identify priorities and opportunities for the Community, with the following achievements over the last three years:

Cynnal Llanddewi 2022

This project was one of 23 throughout Ceredigion that were approved for a grant under the LEADER scheme.

The Grant Fund focused on the following priorities from the Cynnal y Cardi Local Development Strategy:

- strengthening community resilience activity with a focus on the role of Town and Community Councils in supporting and engaging with their communities
- developing opportunities for re-engaging people and reinvigorating community activity following COVID-19 and piloting innovative uses for community facilities

The project was shortlisted in three categories and was the winner of the 'Gweithio o'r Gwaelod Lan' – 'Firm Foundations' Award at Cynnal y Cardi and CAVO9s celebratory event 2023. <https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/news/cynnal-llanddewi-brefi-10-2022/>

Jiwbilî Llanddewi 2022

An application for a National Lottery Community Fund Grant by the Hall management committee for community projects and activities during the Queen's Jubilee year was awarded £9,300. Activities were developed in collaboration with user groups, and a yearlong programme of events involved the whole community and regenerated interest in the village hall and recreation ground as a community hub and focal point for social interaction.

<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/jiwbili-llanddewi-brefi-jubilee/>
<https://caron.360.cymru/2024/gar-dd-gymunedol/>

Coroni Llanddewi 2023

An application for a National Lottery Community Fund Grant by the Hall management committee for community projects and activities during the King's Coronation year was awarded £9,950. Activities were developed in collaboration with user groups, and a yearlong programme of events involved the whole community and regenerate interest in the village hall and recreation ground as a community hub and focal point for social interaction.

To support community events, a new PA system was funded, together with a commemorative bench to be installed in the new community wildlife garden.

Other projects supported include 'Cafi Dewi', a community café set up by Llanddewi Brefi WI, Ceredigion Federation, with the aim of creating a warm, friendly space accessible to all.

Ceredigion Community Grant

The Community Council successfully applied for planning permission in 2022, and as Sole Trustee secured 50% grant funding (£5.2k) for replacement windows and doors at the Village Hall. The works were completed in May 2022.

<https://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/resident/news/2022/grants-available-to-communities-and-associations/>

War Memorials Trust Grants Scheme

Llanddewi Brefi Cemetery War Memorial received a grant of £930 from War Memorials Trust Grants Scheme supported by the First World War Memorials Programme. Funding of

£4,333 was also awarded under Cadw's Grants for War Memorials Scheme.

<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/news/llanddewi-brefi-cemetery-war-memorial-receives-funding-boost-war-memorials-trust-grants-scheme/>

Cymru Football Foundation 3 Fit For Future Facilities Programme

The Community Council, on behalf of the Village Hall charity and Clwb Pêl-droed Sêr Dewi Football Club, has recently applied for funding to improve the changing rooms and provide storage for maintenance equipment.

The proposed improvements are expected to generate increased community use and will facilitate additional or enhanced sporting events, enabling participation by mixed gender groups and providing suitable gender-neutral facilities for officials for team sports.

The six existing communities highlighted in the map above have distinct identities and characters, and there is significant variance in the services and resulting council budgets between Llanddewi Brefi and its neighbouring communities.

Table 1: Precept comparison 3 Draft Proposals

2023/24 Precept comparison 3 Draft Proposals				
Community Councils	Council Tax Base 2023/24	Precept	Band D Council tax (community element)	Variance
Existing arrangement				
LLANDDEWI BREFI	308.09	£9,500	£30.84	
LLANGYBI	283.5	£4,000	£14.11	
LLANFAIR CLYDOGAU	308.76	£3,500	£11.34	
Draft Proposals				
LLANDDEWI BREFI	900.35	£17,000	£18.88	
Precept by ward *				
LLANDDEWI BREFI	308.09	£5,817		(£3,683)
LLANGYBI (+Silian)	283.5	£5,353		£1,353
LLANFAIR CLYDOGAU (+Cellan)	308.76	£5,830		£2,330

**The precept collected from smaller villages will be available to each community ward (Council Size Policy).*

According to the Ceredigion Council size policy, the precept from smaller villages would be available to each community ward. However, the charge for each dwelling is calculated for the whole community council area and divided by the number of 'Band D' equivalent dwellings. **There would not be a different precept for each ward.**

The table above shows how the total precept income for the new council area could be divided between wards, according to the number of 'Band D' equivalent dwellings. Although the new Council could, in theory, decide to spend the precept according to the needs of each area, this would mean two wards out of three paying more than twice as much without receiving any additional services.

As these other two wards previously had similar budgets, and all three wards would have four councillors each under the draft proposals, it is likely that there would be pressure to limit spending in Llanddewi Brefi to reduce the impact on electors in other council wards, and Llanddewi Breu ward councillors would not command a majority in budget decisions.

On the basis of the precept demands for 2023/24, this would equate to a **budget cut of £3,683 for Llanddewi Brefi ward** in order to equalise spending in each ward, and result in substantial cuts to discretionary services.

Consideration of Alternative arrangements

Llanddewi Breu Community Council has held public meetings and consultations with residents and councillors from neighbouring areas, to raise awareness of the review and highlight the implications of the draft proposals.

A copy of the presentation shown at the meeting on 16/04/2024 can be accessed at

<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/ceredigion-community-review-2023/>.

Alternative proposals that align more closely with existing community ties and electoral wards have been discussed as shown in the following map and tables:

Community Review - Ceredigion 2023

Alternative proposals

Alternative Proposals

Council Size Policy (Rural)		nr of electors							
Community ward		g 400							
Community Council area		g 800							
(a ratio of 85 electors/councillors is used in the LDBC variance calculations for rural councils)									
		Existing electorate			Projected (+5 years, exc. ward boundary changes)				
Community Councils	Wards	Electors	Community Councillors	Electors per existing Councillor	Variance (from existing average)	Electors	Community Councillors	Electors per existing councillor	Variance (from existing average)
Llanddewi Brefi Community Council (Rural)	Llanddewi Brefi	513	7	73	-14%	543	7	78	-9%
	inc. Llanbadarn Odwyn	391	4	98	15%	377	4	94	11%
	Gwynfil	287	3	96	13%	257	3	86	1%
	Penuwch								
		1191	14	85	0%	1177	14	84	-1%
Lledrod Community Council (Rural)	Lledrod	583	6	97	14%	554	6	92	9%
	inc. Blaenpennal	459	6	77	-10%	467	6	78	-8%
	Llangwryfon								
		1042	12	87	2%	1021	12	85	0%
Llangybi Community Council (Rural)	Llangybi	490	6	82	-4%	512	6	85	0%
	inc. Silian	541	6	90	6%	517	6	86	1%
	inc. Cellan								
		1031	12	86	1%	1029	12	86	1%

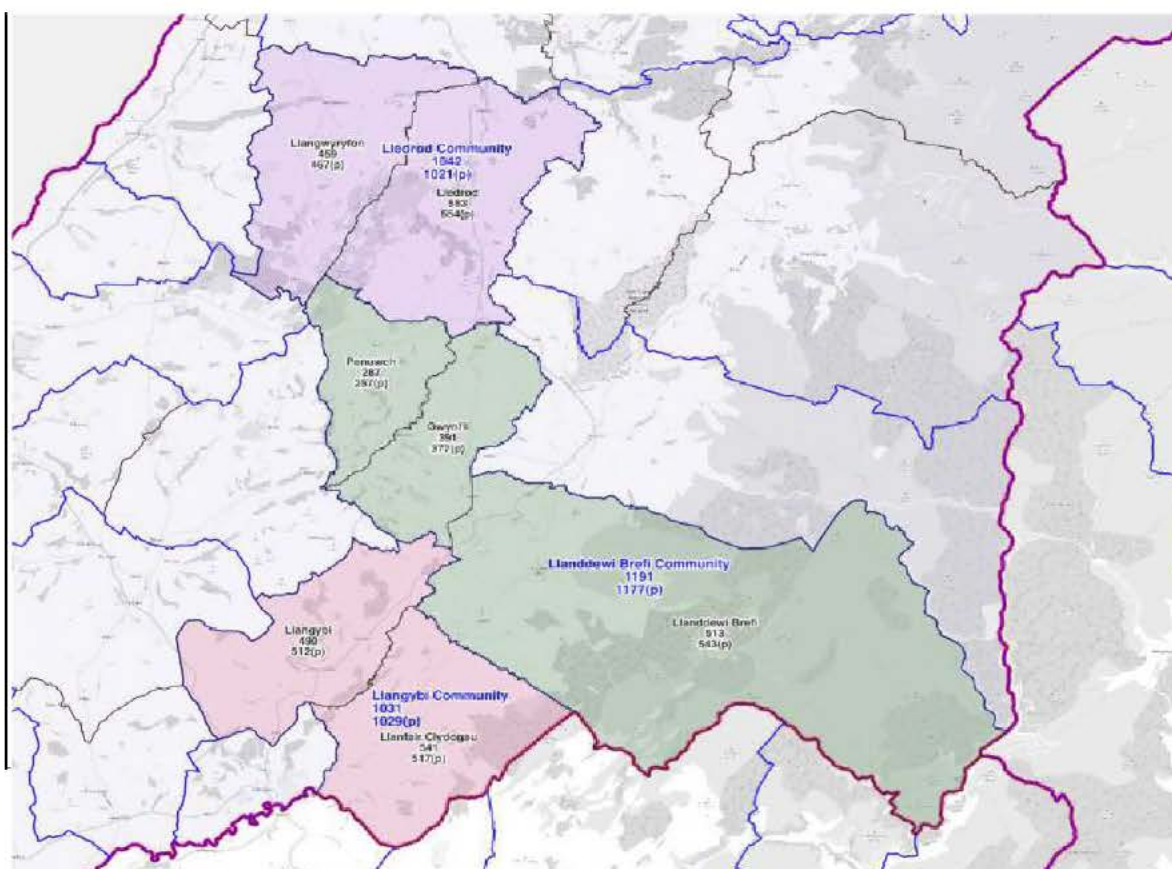


Fig: 8 Alternative proposals

Under these Alternative proposals, the following existing community councils would merge,

- Llanddewi Brefi Council with Llangeitho,
- Llangybi with Llanfair Clydogau, and
- Lledrod with Llangwryfon.

This arrangement would result in three communities of 1191, 1031, and 1042 electors, well within the Ceredigion council size policy and leaving all other draft proposals by the commission unaffected.

The suggested Llanddewi Brefi and Llangybi communities would also align substantially with their respective county electoral wards, and nearest service centres.

In this alternative, having regard to the council size policy, wards would change as follows:

- Gwynûl and Llanbadarn Odwyn would merge to form one ward of 391 electors, leaving the existing ward of Penuwch at 287. Although this falls short of the policy target by 28%, the council size policy states that 8evidence based9 arguments are to be considered if proposing a ward of less than 400. Penuwch is one of two villages in the current Llangeitho community, and the ward is separated by natural boundary of the Afon Aeron.
- Silian and Llangybi would combine into a single ward of 490 electors,
- Cellan and Llanfair Clydogau would combine into a single ward of 541.
- Lledrod Isaf and Blaenpennal would combine into a single ward of 583, and Llangwryfon would remain as a ward of 459, as currently proposed.

No specific ratio of electors to councillors for rural councils has been set by the Council size policy. By allocating 7 councillors to the suggested Llanddewi brefi ward, 3 to the retained ward of Penuwch, and 4 to a combined ward of Gwynûl & Llanbadarn Odwyn, the alternative proposal meets the ratio of 85 electors per councillor, as initially used by the commission to assess variance, for the whole suggested community of Llanddewi Brefi & Llangeitho, with an equal number of councillors in each of the former community areas. This arrangement avoids any single ward or former community having a majority vote, and the chair would be able to exercise a casting vote in the event of tied decisions.

However, although this alternative meets the criteria set by the County Council's policy, Llanddewi Brefi and Llangeitho communities are still distinct in their identities and character. Significant discrepancies in terms of services and expenditure would remain (see appendix 1), and the potential impact on services to Llanddewi Brefi, although reduced, is still significant, as shown in the table below.

Table 2: Precept comparison 3 Alternative arrangements

2023/24 Precept comparison 3 Alternative arrangements				
Community Councils	Council Tax Base 2023/24	Precept	Band D Council tax (community element)	Variance
Existing arrangement				
LLANDDEWI BREFI	308.09	£9,500	£30.84	
LLANGEITHO	371.44	£5,500	£14.81	

Alternative proposals LLANDDEWI BREFI	679.53	£15,000	£22.07	
Precept by ward * LLANDDEWI BREFI	308.09	£6,801		(£2,699)
LLANGEITHO (+Penuwch**)	371.44	£8,199		£2,699

**The precept collected from smaller villages will be available to each community ward (Council Size Policy).*

*** precept for the two proposed wards shown combined*

The only solution that does not result in a negative impact on the existing community of Llanddewi Brefi, is to retain the existing community boundary. Doing so would still permit the merger of Llangybi with Llanfair Clydogau, and Llangwryfon with Lledrod, and would have no implications beyond these areas.

Conclusion:

Llanddewi Brefi is currently the largest and most rural community in the area, with half its population being widely dispersed outside the village itself⁶; its Community Council is unique amongst its surrounding communities in terms of the services and local support it provides, including:

- Acting as **Sole trustee**, holding the title to the village hall and recreation ground, forming its management committee, and supporting its services and maintenance through the precept.
- As a **Burial authority**, running and maintaining cemetery services.
- Supporting local events and organisations through its **small grants** budget.
- Maintaining publicly accessible grass areas, closed churchyard, and footpaths.
- **Appointing trustees** and providing clerical services to the Fuel Allotments, a local charity that exclusively benefits the former parish area.
- Maintaining a public access defibrillator and **holding bequeathed funds** in reserves.
- Providing a **youth club**, coordinating volunteers, and acting as safeguarding lead.

The Community Council is proactive in obtaining grants for community events and improving facilities, amounting to £35k in the last 3 years and providing the hall with an interactive digital screen and hybrid meeting equipment.

In its role as hall management committee, the Council is responsible for organising the village carnival, and the hall hosts the annual agricultural and horticultural show, road

⁶<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/censusoutputareastimatesinwales> - Table SAPE23DT10j: Mid-2020 Population Estimates for Census Output Areas in Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex, Persons - Supporting Information

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running race event, and provides the venue for Xmas and bonfire night activities, in addition to a community café.

Supporting community events and safeguarding the village hall and recreation ground has been extremely important in maintaining a community focus; over the last 15 years, the village has lost its primary school, post office, shop, and one of two pubs.

The level of support and services the Community Council provides is only possible due to the number of councillors able to volunteer, together with the funding provided through the precept, and is unique amongst its surrounding community areas.

Any proposed merger of councils that results in a Llanddewi Brefi ward with a minority vote in decisions threatens the provision of these services. In that situation, the total precept demand will be levied over the enlarged council area, and budget proposals will be unlikely to be approved if they increase the cost to electors in two other wards.

Even if the village hall charity reverts to an independent or corporate management structure, it is unlikely to be able to replace the funding and support it currently receives from the Community Council. **In that case, there is a strong possibility that it could be forced to dissolve, closing our only community hub and facilities, including the recently established community café/ warm space, playground, playing fields, football pitch and changing rooms.**

Although alternative proposals have been considered, in consultation with neighbouring communities, there is no solution that achieves the targets set by Ceredigion's Council size policy and does not involve a merger with a much lower precepting community with more electors and far fewer services or responsibilities.

Llanddewi Brefi Community Council considers that it represents effective and convenient local government, delivers quality services economically and efficiently, and gives residents a democratic voice in the decisions that affect them.

There have not been any recent significant changes in terms of population, development, and infrastructure that would justify a review of the Community Council area, and none are forecast. The community continues to have a strong and characteristic sense of identity distinct from its neighbouring communities, and services and representation would be diminished by any substantial changes in boundaries and councillor numbers.

"Consideration of proposals should focus on outcomes. A new structure is not an outcome, but merely a means to an end. The hurdle that any proposal should have to pass is whether it is, on balance, likely to lead to better public service outcomes and/or governance."⁷

With the inevitable impact of poorer services and representation, and less access to face-to-face meetings, any reorganisation of Llanddewi Brefi Community Council will result in far less effective and convenient local government, and we urge the commission to reconsider its proposals.

⁷ <https://www.publicfinance.co.uk/news/2018/03/what-consider-when-merging-councils1>

Community	Councillors	Electors		Precept ¹		Services linked to USC/RSC	Area (ha)	Services	Amenities		Burial authority
		Ex.	+ 5 years (P)	(2022-2023)	(2023-2024)				Village hall	Recreation ground	
Llanddewi Brefi	10	513	541	£8,500	£9,500	Tregaron	11431	- Community & Council website - Hall cleaner - Hall telephone & Broadband - Community grants - Street lighting - Youth "drop-in" - Grass cutting - PA Defibrillator	Sole Trustee	Sole Trustee	Yes
Llangeitho	12	678	634	£5,500	£5,500	Tregaron	3831	- Council website - Grass cutting - Community grants	Independent	Not known	No
Llanfair Clydogau & Cellan	10	541	517	£3,500	£3,500	Lampeter	3232	- Council website - Grass cutting	Independent	N/A	No
Llangybi	9	490	512	£4,000	£4,000	Lampeter	2853	- Council website - PA Defibrillator - Community grants - Playground inspections	Independent	Independent	No
Nantcwnlle	9	666	667	£2,000	£2,200	Lampeter (Llwynygroes)/ Felinfach (Talsarn)	3962	Not known	Not known	Not known	No
Tregaron	11	968	1007	£24,000	£22,000	N/A	8642	- Council website - Street cleaner - Grass cutting - Community grants	Independent	Independent	No

¹ <http://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/resident/council-tax/budget/>

Appendix 2 Council size policy comparisons

Pembrokeshire⁸	Ceredigion⁹
Urban	Urban
Communities with 2,000 registered electors or more are classified as urban for the purposes of this policy. Those communities are (from largest to smallest) Milford Haven, Haverfordwest, Pembroke Dock, Pembroke, Fishguard & Goodwick, Tenby, Neyland, and Narberth.	Towns identified as Urban Service Centres in the Local Development Plan, are Aberaeron, Aberystwyth, Cardigan, Lampeter, Llandysul and Tregaron.
The ratio of councillors to electors will be between 1:170 and 1:600;	Ensure that the ratio of councillors to electors is a minimum of 1:600.
The minimum number of councillors will be 13 and the maximum number 18;	Ensure that each town council area that is created is represented by a maximum of 21 councillors and a minimum of 7 councillors;
The number of councillors on an urban council is at least one more than the largest rural council.	
Rural	Rural
For community councils of less than 500 electors, expressions of interest in voluntary mergers will be sought.	Ensure that a community ward has no fewer than 400 electors;
In the event of a community council of under 500 electors not wishing to voluntarily merge, there will be 6 councillors.	Ensure that a community council area has no fewer than a total of 800 electors (i.e. the total of the communities wards within that town/community council area);
For community councils of over 500 electors the ratio of councillors to electors will be between 1:80 and 1:160, with the aim to be as close as possible to 1:120;	
The minimum number of councillors will be 6 and the maximum number 12;	Consider strong, evidence-based arguments to create a community ward that has fewer than 400 electors;
Wards within communities to be retained or created on a case by case basis.	Where possible, community wards are removed and councillor representation is based on the whole community council area; and that the precept collected from smaller villages will be available to each community ward.

⁸ <https://www.ldbc.gov.wales/reviews/10-23/pembrokeshire-community-review>

⁹ <https://www.ldbc.gov.wales/reviews/03-24/ceredigion-community-review-draft-proposals>

Appendix 3 - Public meeting presentation 16/04/2024



Arolwg Cymunedol Ceredigion 2023 Community Review

GAN GOMISIWN FFINIAU A DEMOCRATIAETH LLEOLI CYMRU

AR RAN CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION

BY LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

ON BEHALF OF CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Yr Aro Iwng	The Review
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Mae gan brif gynghorau ddyletswydd i fonitro ac adolygu eu uniau cymunedol bob 10-15 mlynedd i sicrhau eu bod yn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → parhau i adlewyrchu hunaniaeth leola diddordebau cymunedau a → yn effeithiol ac yn gyfleus → Gall y rhesymau dros newid uniau gynnwys: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → newidiadau sylweddol yn y boblogaeth → datblygiadau a seilwaith newydd sy'n croesi uniau presennol neu'n rhannu cymunedau → Pwrpas yr adolygiad yw darparu cynrychiolaeth deg ac effeithiol ar draws cymunedau 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Principal councils have a duty to monitor and review their community boundaries every 10-15 years to ensure that they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → continue to reflect the local identities and interests of communities and → are both effective and convenient → Reasons for boundary change may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → significant changes in population → new development and infrastructure that crosses existing boundaries or divides communities → The purpose of the review is to provide fair and effective representation across communities

Background to review process

Ceredigion County Council has a duty under Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 to keep its communities under review every 10 years, and report its review to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales

The County Council has asked the Commission to undertake this Community Review on its behalf.

the terms of reference state that the community review will focus on making boundary changes to ensure that community boundaries continue to reflect the identities and interests of the communities across the principal council area and that they are both effective and convenient.

the primary purpose of the review should be to identify those situations where changes in population, development, and infrastructure have materially affected local identity and lessened the effectiveness of local representation.

Polisi Maint y Cyngor
Council size policy

Gwledig

- Sicrhau fod dim llai na 400 o etholwyr mewn ward gymunedol;
- Sicrhau fod dim llai na 800 o etholwyr mewn ardal cyngor cymuned (hynny yw, cyfanswm wardiau'r gymuned o fewn ardal y cyngor tref/cymuned);
- Ystyried dadleuon cryf, ar sail tystiolaeth, ar gyfer creu ward gymunedol sydd â llai na 400 o etholwyr;
- Lle bo'n bosib, cael gwared ar wardiau cymunedol a bod cynrychiolaeth y cynghorwyr yn seiliedig ar ardal gyfan y cyngor cymuned; a bod y praecept a gesglir o bentrefi llai ar gael i bob ward gymunedol.
- Nid yw'r ffigurau hyn yn dargedau sefydlog nac yn rhai rhwymol, ond cânt eu hystyried ochr yn ochr ag ystyriaethau perthnasol eraill.

Rural

- Ensure that a community ward has no fewer than 400 electors;
- Ensure that a community council area has no fewer than a total of 800 electors (i.e. the total of the community's wards within that town/community council area);
- Consider strong, evidence-based arguments to create a community ward that has fewer than 400 electors;
- Where possible, community wards are removed, and councillor representation is based on the whole community council area; and that the precept collected from smaller villages will be available to each community ward.
- These figures are not fixed or binding targets, but will be taken into account alongside other relevant considerations

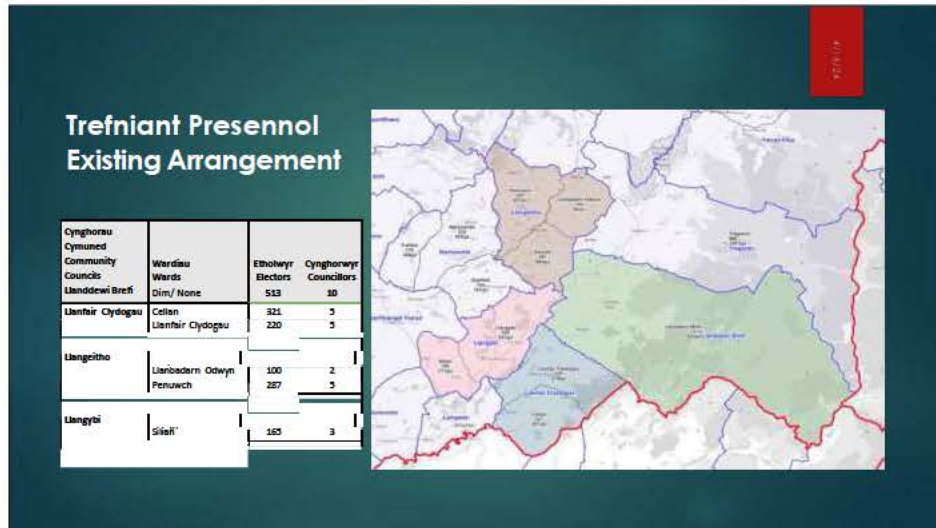
The Council Size Policy was adopted by Ceredigion Council in April 2023:

For rural areas, community wards should have at least 400 electors, and Community councils at least 800.

Although there is a ratio of 1 councillor to 600 electors recommended for towns, no specific ratio has been set by the policy for rural councils, and 'evidence based' arguments will be considered if proposing a ward of less than 400.

However, in their initial tables the commission used a ratio of 1 to 85 to assess variance in representation, and we have used this figure in looking at alternative proposals.

The figures identified in the Council size policy are not fixed or binding targets, and the main focus should be to identify those situations where changes have occurred which make current arrangements less effective

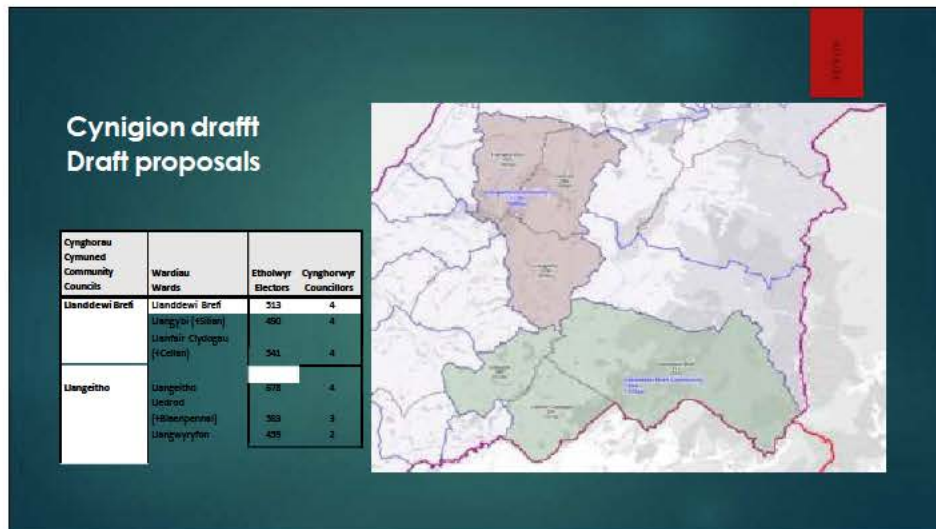


The table and map show the current arrangement of the three community councils bordering Llanddewi Brefi

The Commission have published the projected numbers of electors at the end a 5-year period, and these are noted (p) on the map

All of these current council areas and wards fall short of the targets set by Ceredigion. In the Pembrokeshire review, also taking place now, the 25 councils with under 500 electors have been given the 'option' to merge where they feel this would be more effective, or they are struggling to fill vacancies. Where they do not wish to merge their representation is being capped at 6 councillors.

Ceredigion only has 9 community councils under 500 electors but has adopted a much higher target of 800 in its approach to reorganization of smaller councils, without any option to remain as they are.

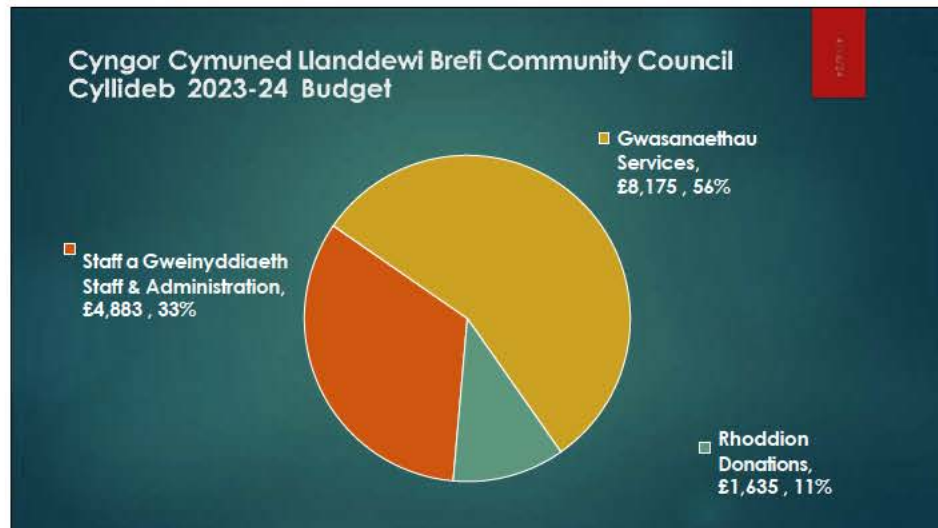


The draft proposals from the LDBC on 19/03/2024 take no account of any of the representations in the initial consultation with regard to effectiveness and convenience.

Rural Council sizes of between 754 and 3246 are proposed, with an overall average size of 1396 electors and a middle (median) number of 1560 electors.

The proposed council area for Llanddewi Brefi crosses two county electoral wards, and combines areas linked to different urban centres in the Local development plan.

These 6 existing communities have distinct identities and characters, and there is significant variance in the services and resulting council budgets between Llanddewi Brefi and its neighbouring communities.



Total budget expenditure 2023-2024 = £14,692

Total budget income = £12,383 (£9,500 precept, £1,496 recoverable VAT, £1,251 Cemetery grant, Sundry income £137)

2/3rds of the budget is allocated to services (this excludes burials and associated administrative expenses)

2023/24				
Cynigion/Cymuned Community Council	Llyfrfa/Cyngor Council Tax Rate 2023/24	Precept Precept	Band D Trefn Cyngor Cyngor Band D [community element]	Amlywod Variance
Trefniant presennol Existing arrangement				
LLANDDEWI BREFI	308.09	£9,500	£30.84	
LLANGYBI	283.5	£4,000	£14.11	
LLANFAIR CLYDGAU	308.76	£3,200	£11.34	
Cynigion Draft Draft Proposals				
LLANDDEWI BREFI	900.35	£17,000	£18.88	
Precept yn ôl ward arfaethedig* Precept by ward *				
LLANDDEWI BREFI	308.09	£5,817		(£3,683)
LLANGYBI	283.5	£5,353		£1,353
LLANFAIR CLYDGAU	308.76	£5,830		£2,330

* Precept yn ôl ward arfaethedig*
*The precept collected from smaller villages will be available to each community ward (Council Tax
Police.

Cynigion draft -
Effaith Cyllideb
y Cyngor

Draft proposals -
Council Budget
Impact

4/16/24

According to the Ceredigion Council size policy, the precept from smaller villages would be available to each community ward.

However, the charge for each dwelling is calculated for the whole community council area and divided by the number of 'Band D' equivalent dwellings.

There would not be a different precept for each ward.

This example shows how the precept income could be divided between wards according to the number of 'Band D' equivalent dwellings.

Although the new Council could in theory decide to spend the precept according to the needs of each area, this could mean two wards paying more than twice as much for no additional services.

As these other two wards previously had similar budgets, and all three wards would have 4 councillors each, it is likely that there would be pressure to limit spending in Llanddewi Brefi to reduce the impact on electors in other wards, and Llanddewi ward councillors would not have a majority in budget decisions.

Posibilrwydd colli gwasanaethau i'r gymuned	Potential loss of services to the community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mae gwasanaethau dewisol y gellid eu colli i gyflawni toriadau cyllideb o £3.5-4k yn cynnwys: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ffon neuadd a band eang - Goleuadau stryd (trwy'r nos) - Cefnogaeth clwb ieuenctid - Goleuadau Nadolig a digwyddiadau - Glanhau a chynnal a chadw neuaddau - A.137 Rhoddion i ddigwyddiadau a setydliadau lleol - Torri gwair (Caeau chwarae a Myrwent) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discretionary services that could be lost to achieve budget cuts of £3.5-4k include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hall phone and broadband - Street lights (all night) - Youth club support - Xmas lights and events - Hall cleaning and maintenance - S.137 Donations to local events and organisations - Grass cutting (Playing fields & Churchyard)

- Mae gwasanaethau dewisol y gellid eu colli i gyflawni toriadau cyllideb o £3.5-4k yn cynnwys:

- Ffon neuadd a band eang
- Goleuadau stryd (trwy'r nos)
- Cefnogaeth clwb ieuenctid
- Goleuadau Nadolig a digwyddiadau
- Glanhau a chynnal a chadw neuaddau
- A.137 Rhoddion i ddigwyddiadau a setydliadau lleol
- Torri gwair (Caeau chwarae a Myrwent)



- Discretionary services that could be lost to achieve budget cuts of £3.5-4k include:

- Hall phone and broadband
- Street lights (all night)
- Youth club support
- Xmas lights and events
- Hall cleaning and maintenance
- S.137 Donations to local events and organisations
- Grass cutting (Playing fields & Churchyard)

A substantial number of these services would need to be cut to achieve a budget cut of £3.5-4k, and equalize the spending between the proposed wards, and Llanddewi Brefi ward will have a minority vote in any budget decisions by the proposed community council.



Timetable

Following adoption of the Council size policy by Ceredigion County Council in April 2023

- Stage 1 - 8 Week Consultation Period - 9 May 2023 to 3 July 2023
- Stage 2 - Develop and publish Draft Proposals - 8 Week Consultation Period originally planned for Autumn 2023 started on 19th March 2024 and has been shortened to 6 weeks
- Stage 3 - Commission Formulates Final recommendations and submits to Welsh Government - originally planned for July 2024, now estimated to move into Autumn
- Stage 4 - After 6 weeks WG may make an Order (an opportunity to write to Welsh Government)
- Stage 5 - New arrangements come into force for local government election

Casgliad	Conclusion
<p>→ Gallai cynigion drafft y Comisiwn arwain at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Llai o wasanaethau yn Llanddewi Brefi - Cyfarfodydd yn llai hygyrch wyneb yn wyneb (efallai 1 o bob 4 yn Llanddewi Brefi os yn lleoliadau bob yn ail rhwng wardiau) - Cynrychiolaeth salach ar gyfer etholwyr Llanddewi Brefi gan Gynghorwyr (o 10 i 4), a phleidlais leiafrifol ym mhenderfyniadau Cyngorau Cymuned sy'n effeithio ar y ward. 	<p>→ The Commission's draft proposals could result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fewer services in Llanddewi Brefi - Meetings being less accessible in person (possibly 1 in 4 in Llanddewi Brefi if alternating locations between wards) - Poorer representation for Llanddewi Brefi electors by Councillors (from 10 to 4), and a minority vote in Community Council decisions affecting the ward.

In conclusion

Budget cuts will be necessary unless other proposed wards either significantly increase their spending on services, or effectively accept a doubling of their local precept to cover the cost of existing services in Llanddewi Brefi - An outcome that is neither likely, given the numbers of councillors in each ward, nor fair on the electors in the other two proposed wards

Currently, meetings in these other areas are held in Llanfair Clydogau, Cellan, and Llangybi. To ensure equal opportunity for residents across the new council area to access a face to face meeting would mean alternating between 4 locations, with 1 in 4 being held in the largest geographical ward area of Llanddewi Brefi.

In reducing the number of councillors across the county by more than half, from 540 to 260 (and in rural areas from 459 to 214) the proposals will result in poorer representation for residents, and less ability to carry out or facilitate voluntary services. In the case of Llanddewi Brefi Community Council, as Sole trustee for its village hall, the proposals present a substantial threat to the support and viability of this community resource.

Lleisiwch eich barn ar eich Cymuned.

Dylid anfon pob sylw ar y cynigion drafft hyn at:

- Y Prif Weithredwr
Comisiwn Ffiniau a Democratioeth Leol
Cymru Tw Hastings, Llys Fitzalan,
Coeddydd CF24 0BL

Neu drwy anfon neges e-bost at:

- ymgyngoradodau@ffinjav.cymru

erbyn 13 Mai 2024 ian pellaf.

Gallwch hefyd anfon eich ymatebion drwy Gyngor Cymuned Llanddewi Brefi cyn 10 Mai. Defnyddiwch y bocsys yn y Ganolfan Gymunedol neu New Inn.

Neu anfonwch e-bost:

- clerc@llanddewibrefi.org

I gael rhagor o wybodaeth am yr orolwg o'r broses orlygu, cyfeiriwch at dudalen we'r Comisiwn:

- www.cffdl.llyw.cymru



www.cffdl.llyw.cymru



www.llyw.gov.wales



Have your say on your Community.

All observations on these draft proposals should be sent to:

- The Chief Executive
Local Democracy and Boundary
Commission for Wales, Hastings House,
Fitzalan Court, Cardiff CF24 0BL

Or by email to:

- consultations@boundaries.wales

no later than 13 May 2024.

You can also send your responses through Llanddewi Brefi Community Council before 10 May, using the boxes in the Community Centre or The New Inn.

Or email:

- clerk@llanddewibrefi.org

For further information on the review and the review process please refer to the Commission webpage:

- www.llyw.gov.wales

In the initial consulta[on, only 24 responses were received.

20 Community Councils (out of 51)

2 County Councillors, 1 Political Party Branch

Only 1 member of the public.

This meeting has been organized to raise awareness of the review and the potential effect of the current proposals on this community, its representation, and its services. It is important that as many residents as possible respond to the consultation, setting out their views on how the changes will affect their community.

To make the consultation as accessible as possible, in addition to the contact details shown, boxes will be placed here in the community centre, and at the New Inn, and the community council will collect and forward any responses received by 10th May

Ceredigion 208 – [REDACTED] (Clerk) – Llanddewi Brefi Council

Good Afternoon

Please find additional e-mail responses from Llanddewi Brefi Community Council to the Commission's Draft proposals in the Ceredigion Community Review 2023, from 1 resident and a local association sent for the Community Council to forward for your consideration.

Cofion Cynnes/Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Clerk

Llanddewi Brefi Community Council

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

12/05/2024

Dear Boundary Commission

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed merger of our community council with three other councils. As a resident and member of this community, I believe it is crucial to voice our collective opposition to this decision.

Our community council plays a vital role in representing the interests and needs of local residents. It serves as a platform for community engagement, decision-making, and advocacy on issues that directly impact our daily lives. By merging our council with others, we risk diluting the effectiveness and responsiveness of local governance.

Furthermore, merging councils could result in bureaucratic inefficiencies, decreased accountability, and a loss of community identity. Each community has its own unique characteristics, challenges, and priorities that deserve dedicated representation and resources. Consolidating councils may overlook these distinctions and fail to adequately address the diverse needs of our residents.

I urge the county council to reconsider the decision to merge our community council with others and to prioritise meaningful consultation with residents throughout this process. It is essential that any changes to local governance reflect the input and concerns of the communities they serve.

I request that the county council engage in transparent and inclusive dialogue with residents, community leaders, and stakeholders to explore alternative solutions that preserve the integrity and autonomy of our community council.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this matter. I look forward to your response and hope that together, we can work towards a solution that best serves the interests of our community.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact a signature.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 May 2024 17:59
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Ceredigion boundaries review

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2024 5:18:05 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Ceredigion boundaries review

DEWI STARS FOOTBALL CLUB

On behalf of Dewi Stars F.C. I write to object to the proposed Ceredigion Boundaries review.

As a close knit community we work closely with our own Community Council at Llanddewi, together with the village hall.

Our ground is situated next to the village hall where all the local activities take place.

The club was formed in 1959 and has a rich history of success on and off the field.

Part of that success has been the support of our local Community council, be it financially, fund raising events or assistance with grant requests etc..

Merging with other local councils in the vicinity would certainly be responsible for our closely knit village to lose its identity.

Members from the outside would certainly have a conflict of interest, and often no interest at all in our activities, when finances/grants/ground improvement etc.. would be discussed. They would naturally fight for their patch which in turn could have a detrimental effect on our progress.

As it stands our local Community Council is doing an excellent job supporting the whole community, with our football club being an important part of their work.

Therefore we ask you politely to reconsider your proposals, and leave well alone.

Llanddewi Brefi Community Council is strong enough to stand on its own without any merging whatsoever.

Our football club depends on them for their continued support.

Don't change our boundary please..

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED] (Secretary and team Manager Dewi Stars F.C.)

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Ceredigion 211 – [REDACTED] – Ceredigion County Council Cross-Party Working Group

Dear Sir / Madam,

Attached is a response to the community review of the Ceredigion Main Council area.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]



Cyngor Sir
CEREDIGION
County Council

Local Democracy and Boundary Commission
for Wales
Hastings House
Fitzalan Place
CAERDYDD
CF24 0BL

consultations@boundaries.wales

sDyddiad
Date

13.05.2024

Gofynnwch am
Please ask for

Llinell uniongyrchol
Direct line

Fy nghyf
My ref

Eich cyf
Your ref

Ebost
Email

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: Submission on behalf of Ceredigion County Council to the Community Review of the Ceredigion Principal Council area (closing date: 13 May 2024)

The following comments represent the majority view of a Cross-Party Working Group of Ceredigion County Councillors in response to the consultation on the Community Review of the Ceredigion Principal Council area. The Independent Group will also be submitting additional comments separately.

RESPONSE

The initial response of the group was one of frustration that the original scoping document agreed by Ceredigion County Council had not placed an upper limit on the number of electors, which allowed the Commission to far exceed the original intended outcomes of the review.

Consequently, not providing an upper limit of electors has inadvertently led to the number of electors in some proposed Councils to be too large. Furthermore, the amalgamation of existing community councils into larger entities has been proposed without due regard to existing local collaborations. As a consequence, the Task and Finish Group felt the original proposal would lead to potential new entities that would disenfranchise many rural areas of the authority. As a largely rural authority, it is critical that any community council infrastructure remains integrally linked to its own area, taking into account the continuity of existing social, linguistic and cultural factors and consolidating these existing strengths rather than breaking them down.

We agree in principle with the need to increase the size of smaller Community Councils in the Ceredigion Principal Council area, as this provides them with the capacity to have a greater impact and to deliver improved benefits locally. We also support the recommendation to increase the number of County Councillors for the Aberystwyth, Morfa and Glais Ward from 2 to

3. However, there is consensus regarding a number of issues which are proving to be a stumbling block that will need to be addressed before any changes are implemented. We have provided an alternative solution in order to address each and every one of these.

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Cewch ateb Cymraeg i bob gohebiaeth Gymraeg ac ateb Saesneg i bob gohebiaeth Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English. Correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and correspondence in English will be answered in English. Corresponding in Welsh will not involve any delay.

Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive :
Cyfarwyddwyr Corfforaethol / Corporate Directors :

Differential precept setting

The first relates to the merging of urban and rural areas and the proposals to merge large, remote geographical areas and potential disengagement resulting from this. Currently, the levels of precept raised by Town and Community Councils vary significantly, and there is concern that those living outside of the main service centres (i.e. more rural areas) will be required to contribute a greater amount. This can be illustrated by looking at the Aberaeron Town Council and Dyffryn Arth Community Council areas as an example:

<u>Town / Community Council</u>	<u>24/25</u> <u>Precept</u>	<u>24/25</u> <u>Taxbase</u>	<u>24/25</u> <u>Council Tax</u> <u>(Band D)</u>
Aberaeron	£46,824	804	£58
Dyffryn Arth	£14,550	603	£24
Potential if Combined	£61,374	1,407	£44

The current precept raised by Aberaeron is £58 per Band D property per annum, compared to Dyffryn Arth which has a precept of £24 per Band D property per annum. In order to balance the precept under a combined larger Town / Community Council, if all things being equal the same level of total precept continued, then each property within the new boundary area would be required to pay £44 per annum on a Band D basis. i.e. Properties in Aberaeron would see a reduction of £14 per annum (on a Band D basis), whilst Properties in Dyffryn Arth would see an increase of £20 per annum (on a Band D basis). Whilst we acknowledge that each new Community Council would be able to ring-fence and/or manage the component parts of their budgets in any way they choose, to reflect the precept raised by each area, it is not possible to differentiate the level of precept raised within a Town / Community Council under the current legislation.

We therefore propose that the Welsh Government consider a review of the current legislation to allow for a differential precept setting within the boundaries of Community Councils in Wales as a pragmatic solution which would benefit all rural communities in Wales.

Community Council Geographic Areas

The review does not evidence local knowledge, economic or cultural justification for deciding upon the proposed boundary lines. However, the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission review of County Council Wards in 2021 has proved very effective and **it is therefore our unanimous opinion that the geographical areas for Community Councils should align with the County Council wards** for the following reasons:

- This will provide greater synergy and coherence with a system and structure that currently works well.
- County Councillors will be able to represent the views and opinions of Community Councils in a far more effective and seamless way. They will be able to advise Community Councils of specific issues relevant to shared geographical areas:

Consequently:

- The current proposals would result in inconsistencies between the number of Community Councils in each of the Council Wards e.g. the Llanybi Principal Council Ward would not contain any Community Councils, whilst the Llangeitho Community Council would be represented by 3 County Councillors;
- The current geographical proposals do not take into account geographical separation of communities in rural areas such as fields, woods and rivers. Each community has its own identity and clear geographical demarcation as opposed to the more urban areas, and it is felt that this has not been taken into consideration when grouping communities together as part of this proposal;
- The current proposals do not take into account the sparsity of the rural areas, and

the significant increase in travelling costs and time in order to meet with residents, and to attend meetings.

Baseline number of Councillors

It is our unanimous opinion that the baseline figure of 7 Members for a Community Council is too low and should be reviewed in order to establish a more appropriate baseline number for the following reasons:

- The risk of losing a significant number of good, proactive Members who contribute to their communities on a voluntary basis on different projects such as litter-picks, and the planting of fruit-trees as well as the different skill sets and expertise that each Member brings to the group;
- The additional responsibilities and additional duties being absorbed by Community Councils due to reduction in funding to principal Councils, such as grass-cutting, parks, toilets, street cleaning etc.;
- The majority of Members are actively involved in other activities their communities such as the Village Hall and have other responsibilities such as employment and or caring responsibilities. By reducing the numbers so drastically, there is a risk that individuals will not wish to put their names forward for future elections, due to the additional pressures placed upon fewer individuals e.g. a reduction from 27 Members to 7.

We propose that the Boundary Commission reconsider the baseline figure, setting a figure of no less than two-thirds of the existing membership.

The scoping document relating to the size policy for community councils recommended that each town council area is represented by a maximum of 21 and a minimum of 7 Councillors, with a ratio of Councillors to electors as a minimum of 1:600. For a rural area, it was recommended that each community ward had no fewer than 800 electors, and that consideration is given to strong, evidence-based arguments for creating a community ward that has fewer than 400 electors. It is our opinion that this review has far exceeded the minimum recommended figures for numbers of electorate, and has opted for the absolute minimum of 7 Councillors, as opposed to the expected mid-way point. Our proposal to align the footprint of the Community Council wards with that of the principal council would address this interpretation which we believe is excessive.

To summarise, the three main threads of our response include:

1. A review of the current legislation to allow for a differential precept setting within the boundaries of Community Councils in Wales;
2. That the geographical areas for Community Councils in Ceredigion align with that of the County Council wards;
3. That the baseline figure of Members per Community Council is amended, setting a figure of no less than two thirds of the existing membership.

Whilst we appreciate that the review of the current legislation in terms of a differential precept setting power may not be within your gift, it would be appreciated if the Boundary Commission was minded to use any influence that you may have to expediate legislative changes, as this is a significant barrier to achieving the proposed boundary changes, especially in rural areas. We look forward to your views on this response, taking into consideration the significant departure between your original proposals and the feedback provided by our Cross-Party Working Group.

Yours sincerely,

, Corporate Manager for Democratic Services, on behalf of the Cross-Party Working Group.

Ceredigion 212 – Cllr Gareth Lloyd - Independent Group on Ceredigion County Council

Good evening,

I send this on behalf of the whole Independent group as a response to the current Community Council boundary review in Ceredigion.

Our main reason for responding as a group is to stress our deep disappointment at how your recommendations far exceed, and in no way relate to the intentions of the scoping document. Our initial shock (as is the response we have received from most of the community councils) is that there is no option at all to stay as we/they are. Whereas we can understand if you think that certain boundaries need to be looked at, there are numerous Community Councils within Ceredigion who are doing commendable work within their areas and that would also fit within what was proposed in the scoping document (minimum numbers of electorate etc) yet you take no account of this and propose changes to nearly every community council, with no reason given for this.

Our representatives on the task and finish group, and we as a whole group, have inputted into the authorities official response (however at the time of sending this email I have still not seen a final version of the Authorities response therefore cannot confirm if our views have been included or not) and I believe this should give you an in detail understanding of how far away your initial recommendations are to what we were expecting based on the scoping document. It also goes some way to point out the reasoning towards practical problems that your recommendations create that so far have no answers, whilst offering positive suggestions as to how alternative approaches, done differently to what you have provided, could address most of these issues.

Whilst we would normally rely on the authorities response to address the concerns we raise above, this time we as a group believe we have to raise our concerns and disappointment with the process so far and ultimately our disagreement with your recommendations separately. We do this entirely based on the unquestionably unanimous and negative feedback we have had from our community councils. Be that ones we sit on as members or attend as the county councillor for the ward. I understand that all the community councils we mention and have first-hand knowledge of are responding to the consultation as well. As I hope do the other political groups within Ceredigion County Council.

We feel as if we have lost faith with the process already however I urge you to take great consideration to the consultation responses and rethink your proposals and are prepared to look at each response based on their own merits and local knowledge, and consider new (individual if needed) recommendations based on these rather than a “one option fits all approach”. Taking into consideration the strength of feeling relayed to us regarding this issue, if the Commission determines not to amend the current draft proposals and doesn’t hold further consultation with all stakeholders, we as the Independent group will have no choice but to push for the Council to explore the potential for pursuing a legal challenge to be brought and will oppose the final recommendations to Welsh Ministers.

Best regards,

Cllr. Gareth Lloyd. On Behalf of the Independent Group on Ceredigion County Council.

Gareth Lloyd

Cynghorydd Sir / County Councillor

Llandysilio a/and Llangrannog

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 213 – [REDACTED] – Ceulanamaesmawr

As a resident of the Ceulanamaesmawr area, I strongly oppose the proposal to merge Ceulanamaesmawr, Ysgubor-y-coed and Llangynfelyn councils. These three areas are completely different from each other in terms of language, culture and character. Ceulanamaesmawr committees are currently held in Welsh, while Ysgubor-y-coed and Llangynfelyn hold their committees in English. The proposal would lead to committees being held in English and requiring a translator, which involves additional cost. It would be completely unacceptable for Ceulanamaesmawr's meetings to be held in English. Talybont and Bontgoch are Welsh villages that take pride in their communities and their Welsh culture/tradition.

It would also mean less representation. Furthermore, it would be undemocratic for important decisions to be made by members from outside the area. The councillors of Llangynfelyn and Ysgubor-y-coed have no knowledge about things that happen in the community of Ceulanamaesmawr – nor are the councillors of Ceulanamaesmawr aware of situations in the other two parishes.

I ask you to reconsider this decision/proposal and keep things as they are.

Our natural Welsh-speaking communities must be safeguarded, there aren't many of them left. In this case, the Welsh language will suffer another blow; the Welsh Government's ambition of achieving a million Welsh speakers by 2050 certainly won't be helped by this proposal. Merging these three parish councils will lead to disagreements and bad feeling between communities. There is enough trouble in the world as it is, without creating more problems locally.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 214 – [REDACTED] – Llangybi

This is my response regarding the consultation on community council boundaries.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I live in Silian and I'm a councillor for Llangybi Ward. I understand that you propose to merge the parishes of Llangybi, Silian and Llanfair Clydogau, and to call the ward Llanddewi Brefi. At a stroke, we lose our identity in this area.

You claim that your research indicates that this proposal "provides for more effective and convenient local government". Effective and convenient for whom? Certainly not the residents.

As a councillor, I will not be willing to travel to Llanddewi Brefi. I'm a farmer by occupation, and time is short. In practical terms, I won't be able to get there in time because I'm milking until about 7 o'clock in the evening. Getting to Llanddewi Brefi involves a journey of 9 miles.

As a councillor, I provide my efforts and valuable time voluntarily to the community, and I would have to travel a long way to attend meetings which would probably last two or three times longer than current meetings in order to discuss all the issues affecting the area.

We represent our area voluntarily because we are interested in our square mile. We have nothing in common with that village. The nearest town to Llanddewi is Tregaron, where the local shops and schools are located. In Silian, we're a little more than a mile from Lampeter. That's where our children went to school and that's where we go shopping. So it's clear that these two areas are different in nature in terms of both geography and economy.

The issues that we discuss, such as local events, Silian and Llangybi village improvement plans, planning applications requiring detailed knowledge of the area, our community interests and our pride in our village, are personal and unique to us, and the same can be said of Llanddewi Brefi and Llanfair Clydogau. I have no interest nor any opinion regarding such issues in their communities. They are the best people to discuss their own villages, and we are the people who understand the requirements of our villages. I can anticipate that merging these existing wards, located miles apart, will lead to councillors prioritising their own parishes and ultimately result in bad feeling. Services and facilities will be focused in the most populated areas and other areas will lose out.

How will this affect the Welsh language? Some councils conduct their business in Welsh, but if a councillor from another area does not speak Welsh, the language of discussions would have to change for the whole Ward.

I feel that this proposal may not have been considered thoroughly enough in terms of practicality. It is not sustainable, and I am strongly opposed to the proposed changes. There is nothing wrong with the boundaries as they are, and it's appropriate to expect councillors to serve their areas voluntarily. But speaking as a councillor, it's possible that I would have to reconsider standing in the future.

Ceredigion 215 – [REDACTED] – Llangybi

I am getting in touch to voice my concern about the proposed amalgamation of the wards of Llangybi, Llanfair Clydogau and Llanddewi Brefi.

I live in the village of Silian, in the Llangybi ward. Silian is situated 10 minutes' drive from the village of Llangybi, the ward's main settlement. Despite the distance, I do sometimes attend community events in Llangybi and have attended community council meetings there. I very rarely have cause to visit Llanddewi Brefi (probably once every 2-3 years) and know nothing about its community. I would not be prepared to attend community council meetings there, as it is a 20-minute drive through winding back roads. Even within the Llangybi ward, there has historically been animosity towards the community council as there is a perception that councillors favour the interests of the village of Llangybi over the other villages in the ward. This is exacerbated by the geographical distance of community council meetings from the outlying villages (meaning they cannot be easily accessed by those unable/unwilling to travel to meetings in the evenings). Despite this, the ward is able to function as a cohesive community, as all the villages within it are relatively close together and view themselves as part of a wider community centred on Llangybi.

Llanddewi Brefi is not only geographically remote from Llangybi ward, but has never had any significant social links to us, being some distance away and across two rivers. The three very distinct and separate communities (each already consisting of a number of villages) represented by the wards you propose to amalgamate would not normally have any interest in local issues or decision-making in the other wards - these would naturally only be relevant to those impacted. I cannot see the benefit in forcing these three separate communities to be involved in each others' local governance.

At a time when there is increasing emphasis on bottom-up community development, trying to amalgamate three very different and distant communities seems like a real backwards step. It will only serve to alienate those not living in the Llanddewi Brefi ward and further remove autonomy from the villages in Llanfair Clydogau and Llangybi wards. I urge you to reconsider.

Many thanks.

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 216 – [REDACTED] – Llanddewi Brefi

I am writing to you as a resident of Llanddewi Brefi Community with concerns about the changes to Llanddewi Brefi Boundary and reduction of community councillors to 4. Our community value the diversity of councillors we have and any reduction in number or amenities to the community threaten the backbone of Wales and appears to be another dagger in the heart of democracy. Please do not reduce our voice any further.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/ Madam

As a resident of Llanddewi Brefi I am writing to express my opposition to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission Community Review. It is my opinion that the proposed changes will be detrimental to the community for the following reasons.

Currently community council meetings are held in the Llanddewi Brefi community hall and easily attended by the community. Bringing three councils into one will, presumably mean only one in three meetings will be held in the village.

Consolidation will also result in watering down the relevance of the meeting as only a small proportion of the discussions will have a direct bearing on the ward of Llanddewi Brefi. I cannot see councillors from the other two areas wishing to spend a lot of time discussing the Christmas lights or cleaning contract for the public toilet in Llanddewi.

Another very real concern is the level of precept. In Llanddewi we make a greater contribution to fund additional services such as street lamps being on all night. How does the commission propose that these services continue part amalgamation?

Finally there is the issue around the village hall. It's currently administered but the community council after the hall committee failed many years ago. I wonder how councillors from other wards whose village halls run independently feel about taking on the Llanddewi hall with all that entails? Not well I suspect with the very real prospect of the hall being closed up and the facility lost to the local residents.

In conclusion I would say that the proposed changes have little to do with improving the lives of local residents and everything to do with removing a layer of complexity for three country council. As community council members are unpaid this will not even save any money, the residents of Llanddewi Brefi and the other two wards will be disadvantaged.

I respectfully urge you to reconsider the proposed changes as they constitute an erosion of local democracy.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 218 – [REDACTED] – Llanddewi Brefi

As a born and bred resident of Llanddewi Brefi, I write in firm opposition to the draft proposals put forward by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission Community Review. I believe these proposals can be nothing short of disastrous for our vibrant and unique community, and others, for a number of reasons.

In the first instance, these proposals will redefine not just the formal boundaries but by necessity, also long standing social connections between neighbouring communities. Communities which have been historically linked and continue at present to remain close knit, such as Tregaron and Llanddewi Brefi, will be separated and re aligned with communities which do not have the same historic, close links. Instead they will be expected to have their vastly different concerns and interests served by a reduced number of councillors, and vye with each other for funding and services.

Those remaining councillors will also inevitably find that they are unable to adequately or equally serve, with any fairness, disparate, hitherto only remotely connected communities with very different needs and interests. It is my view that this will lead to a sadly reduced and impoverished service for all - but worst of all - to potential inequality of access to funds and services, leading to new and unnecessary tensions and friction between Ceredigion communities. Would one combined ward would be willing to see Council tax rates rise in their community to pay for services in a neighbouring village (not provided for within their own) for example? I suggest this would be extremely damaging to community links and wellbeing.

Llanddewi Brefi Community Council is an example of the dedicated local volunteers, many of whom would be lost - and whose dedicated service to their community is highly significant to residents. This would impact our community life and traditions irrevocably, and cause a great deal of local distress - damaging wellbeing in the community.

This brings me to another vital point - I am disabled and a large number of residents in my community are elderly, many struggle with mobility. It would no longer be possible for these residents to attend council meetings without great difficulty, removing the democratic right of older or disabled people to remain involved in their community's decision making. It would have a lesser but nonetheless significant impact on the ability of other residents working full time, or with children to attend, as with their busy lives, they would be less able to travel distances to attend meetings in other wards. All residents should have the right to attend local council meetings without having to find a way to travel unreasonable distances - especially given the little to no public transport which is now available.

For Llanddewi, and I'm certain many others, the consequences of this 'reconfiguration' seem likely to lead to an increasingly depressing outlook for our community. It will certainly threaten the viability of our Village Hall and Recreation grounds - which currently serves Young Farmers, a thriving local youth club and community cafe plus numerous and regular community events - of which the Council is presently sole trustee. As we have already lost our post office, school and village shop in the last decade, I believe this would sound a death knell for community cohesion, well being and prosperity. I therefore regard these decisions to be entirely contrary to Ceredigion County Council's commitment to support and enable the realisation of the seven goals of Future Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, in communities across the county.

In conclusion, I would strongly urge you to reconsider the proposed changes outlined in the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission Community Review. Our community is well served under the

current system, and any alterations will inevitably lead to a reduction in representation, democratic access for residents and the overall well-being of Llanddewi Brefi.

Cofion cynnes,



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

09.05.2024

To whom it may concern,

I wish to write to register my personal objection to the proposed changes to the community council boundaries. As a life long resident of the parish of Llangynfelyn I am very concerned about the proposed changes.

Firstly it seems very unclear about the motive behind the changes I appreciate that the document states one factor is to ensure effective and convenient local government. You also state that you have to balance and you need to consider that communities reflect local identity. You also state you will need to consider democratic fairness to all electors.

- Reflecting local identity

Merging three councils together, is merging 7 villages and 4 outlining large areas together. The difference between our communities is huge, the issues that are brought to the council, the challenges they face, the history of each community.

When Llangynfelyn lost its primary school our children lost learning about the history of they own community. If our community is merged with two other communities and has only 2 representatives the very same things is likely to happen.

- Democratic fairness

It is difficult to see how these proposed changes will ensure democracy. At present within our community each councillor represents 55 electorates. We also have a council who reside throughout the community, making it fairly easy for someone to speak to a councillor if they needed to. The new proposal will mean that each council will represent almost 250 electorates, and within our community only 2 of the 7 people elected to represent us will even live in our community.

Any issues raised in the council relating to any one specific community would leave only 2 voices fighting for it if the issues were divided.

- Effective local government

Asking 7 people to represent almost 1700 electorates, across more than 12 square miles consisting of villages and very rural areas, will in no way make the council more effective. What makes a community council effective is being in the community that they service being a face that residence know and can come to. Being willing and when able to give their time to extra duties for their

community. This will be lost when only 2 of the council are from our community. The majority of the councillors will not be available to the community will not share the same passion for the issues that matter to each individual community.

Effective also requires people to have the time, in a meeting that currently lasts 2 / 2,5 hours addressing the issues of one community how can they possibly do the same for all three communities. It is shortsighted and frankly wrong to believe that the three neighbouring communities share and discuss the exact same issues each meeting.

Effective is unlikely to be achieved with a model of less doing more.

- Carbon footprint

The Welsh government net zero strategic plan includes smart working, for the workforce to work from home more to reduce emissions caused by travelling. This new proposal is in direct conflict with this strategic plan.

Currently within the community of Llangynfelyn the majority of councillors walk to the village hall where the meetings are held. If you were to merge the council they would have no choice but to drive. There by adding further vehicles to the road and actively increasing the emissions caused by local government travelling.

I urge you to please rethink this proposal, and do not be the reason why communities further loss their voice and their identity. It is wrong thinking if you believe that our three communities share one identity.

Kind regards

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Ceredigion 220 – [REDACTED] (Clerk) – Llanarth Community Council

Review of Community Arrangements for the County of Ceredigion – Llanarth Community Council propose that the Community Council Ward replicates the Ward of the County Council for Llanarth.

Diolch

[REDACTED] (Clerc Llanarth)

Dear Sir/Madam

I am appalled by the Boundary Commission's proposal to merge Ysgubor-y-Coed Community Council with those covering Tre'r Ddol and Taliesin (Llangynfelyn) and Talybont and Bontgoch (Ceulanamaesmawr) into a new Council over just 7 councillors.

The 3 main communities covered by Ysgubor-y-Coed (Furnace, Eglwys Fach and Glandyfi) are very different from these other places. They are geographically separated - you wouldn't be able to walk to Tre'r Ddol other than by a footpath over the hills - and different in character. For example, the English language is used almost exclusively in our community whereas many events in Talybont, (which will be the most strongly represented community in the new Council) including Council meetings are conducted in Welsh.

I am greatly concerned that our identity will be lost. We currently have an active and well supported Community Council and we pride ourselves on the way we look after ourselves. We have a thriving social calendar with events in the Iron Room, a WI with more members than most Ceredigion WIs and a well attended church. As a community we help to maintain the church yard and are actively engaged in the RS Thomas Festival. And you may already be aware of our long-standing campaign for a footpath.

In the proposed merger we will have just one representative for our 3 communities. How is this person supposed to do this work involved in supporting their communities? I think it exceedingly unlikely that any member of the public from our communities would travel to Talybont to attend council meetings conducted in Welsh especially as these would necessitate travelling by car as we do not have a bus service in the evenings.

I could go on but I am told that the Council has itself summarised our views in its response to you.

I would merely add that this proposal goes against at least 2 of the goals of the Well being of Future Generations Act, namely 'A Wales of Cohesive Communities' and 'A More Equal Wales'. We are already a cohesive community. Forcing us to merge with communities who are friendly neighbours but NOT part of our social setting will disrupt this. Merging communities of such different population sizes while, at the same time, reducing the number of representative is not going to foster a more equal Wales. In my view, as shared by my friends and neighbours in Eglwys Fach, we will be swamped by our larger neighbours and we will most definitely not have the same control over our affairs that we enjoy now. Our 1 vote won't count for anything.

As the northernmost community in Ceredigion we are used to being overlooked by those further south but at least we can express our own voice. I fear that swallowing us up into this new Council will make it even more difficult for us to stand our ground on things that matter to us.

It seems to me that these proposals have been drawn up as a paper exercise by people who have no idea at all about the communities they are seeking to disrupt.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

[Redacted address]

Ceredigion 222 – Cllr Ifan Davies – Tregaron and Ystrad Fflur Ward

I write to you as the County Councillor for the Tregaron and Ystrad Fflur ward.

I am aware that a recommendation has come forward from Ceredigion County Council task and finish group concerning the boundaries, and that any amalgamation of boundaries should be within the council wards. While I acknowledge that this proposal has merit within some wards, I strongly believe that careful consideration should be given when amalgamating town and community councils.

With reference to my own ward, which encompass Ystrad Fflur community council (approx. 600 electorates) and Tregaron Town council (950 electorates), I believe that these should stay as two separate independent entities.

Representation has been made by both council and I do not wish to reiterate their views, but I would like to point out that both councils, Town and community have strong individual identities, Tregaron being one of the oldest market town in Wales, while Ystrad Fflur is of historical importance to Welsh medieval history and culture, as this was the court of The Arglwydd Rhys. The community council work closely with The Strata Florida trust who have now become the custodians of the Abbey farm. The trust has recently secured Funding from the World Monument Heritage Fund and private investors, the projected project is estimated to be worth in the region of ten million pounds in the coming years, therefore it is very important that the community council of Ystrad Fflur retains its unique branding thus helping to drive this exciting project of Welsh National importance.

Councillors from both Councils volunteer tirelessly within their communities, creating events and working closely with local institutes to ensure a prosperous town and community, furthermore diluting the number of councillors will put a greater burden on both Tregaron and Ystrad Fflur which in the long run, in my opinion will be of detriment of both communities and I honestly believe reducing the numbers will make it difficult to retain and enrol councillors.

I trust that you will give this your careful consideration.

Thank you for your time

Cllr. Ifan Davies

Ceredigion 223 – [REDACTED] (Clerk) – Cardigan Town Council

CYNGOR TREF ABERTEIFI CARDIGAN TOWN COUNCIL

Dear Sir/Madam

Cardigan town councillors have no opposition to the town ward boundary proposals stated in points 39 – 40 (page 26) of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales.

Councillors are happy that the proposed names remain the same as the current names as stated in points 45 – 48 (page 27).

However, councillors do not agree with the considerable reduction from the current 14 councillors to 8, increasing the ratio of councillor to elector by 179 people.

Cardigan is composed of a mixed residential area from the very affluent to extremely deprived, some areas of the Mwldan and Teifi wards are with the poorest in Wales.

The near halving of the councillor representation would make it extremely hard for individual councillors to represent their electors fully. This is exaggerated by the varying needs of the electors and levels of assistance required for some member of the parish.

When comparing the ratio of councillor to elector with our more rural neighbouring councils we are majorly under prescribed:

Cardigan 417 electors per councillor – 8 councillors for the town;

Llangoedmoar 136 electors per councillor – 7 councillors for the area;

Beulah 180 electors per councillor – 7 councillors for the area;

Ferwig 144 electors per councillor – 7 councillors for the area;

There is a need for a substantial difference in these councils, especially due to the town of Cardigan being the main town that the surrounding residents visit to shop, use amenities, schools, social uses etc. We are happy to arrange a meeting to discuss our concerns in more detail. Please could you keep us informed on any developments with regard to this review of community arrangements in Ceredigion.

Thank you.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Clerc y Cyngor / Clerk to the Council

Swyddfa'r Cyngor / Council Office

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 224 – [REDACTED] – Llanddewi Brefi

I live in Llanddewi Brefi and I'm deeply disappointed by the proposals to combine Llanddewi Brefi with Llanfair Clydogau (including Cellan), and Llanybi (including Silian). I am strongly opposed to the proposal, and respectfully request that Ceredigion Council instead follow Pembrokeshire's example of allowing community councils to amalgamate if they wish but not forcing communities to do so.

Contrary to the purpose of Ceredigion Council's proposed changes, which is to provide "fair and effective representation across communities", the proposal, on its face, provides quite the opposite. By its own figures, Ceredigion Council proposes to:

- **triple the size of our community council** from 513 electors in Llanddewi Brefi to 1544 electors,
- **more than halve the total number of community councillors** in the affected area from 29 to 12, and
- **more than halve our local representation in Llanddewi Brefi** in a new "ward" from 10 to 4.

The **sheer significance of the decrease in local representation** itself thwarts any argument that the proposal provides "fair and effective representation across communities".

Looking beyond the numbers and into the communities themselves, each of these councils is unique with a unique set of services and assets funded by its own precept and discretionary spending.

Llanddewi Brefi is the largest physical area compared to the other community councils. Our discretionary services spend is also greater than some of the other community councils, as is our need. For example, our Village Hall is considerably larger than the others' halls, and needs to be maintained and cleaned, with broadband and phone service supported. The grounds need to be mowed, maintained and kept safe. Our cemetery and churchyard also need to be mowed/maintained.

Should this proposal go through, it would require Llanddewi Brefi to cut its discretionary spending OR ask the other community councils to pay more to make up the difference. Either way you look at this, it's a lose-lose scenario for all affected community councils.

To emphasize what is at stake here, if we cannot fund the maintenance and upkeep of our Village Hall/grounds to keep them safe, open and operating, that puts at risk key assets and services which are at the heart of our community and have taken decades to develop and nurture, including:

- Annual events, such as the Llanddewi Brefi Agricultural Show

- Dewi Stars football team/games
- Caffi Dewi (a free community café, which is a WI project entirely volunteer run/managed relying solely on donations and grants and aims to provide a warm/welcoming place for people to get together to help fight isolation and loneliness in our community)**
- Young Farmers meeting and events
- Youth Club** meeting and events
- Our children's play area
- Our community garden (soon to be opened)

*(**These services have been identified by CAVO as models of excellence as community support services.)*

Our local churchyard and cemetery (which includes war veterans and war memorials) also need to be well-maintained out of respect.

The other community councils will likewise have similarly developed their own unique set of services and assets over decades that they will want to fund and protect.

Forcing a situation where some villages will have to be asked to fund another village's assets and services (potentially to the detriment of their own) is simply not workable. Far from providing "fair and effective" representation, this pits communities against each other for basic services, which is not only deeply worrying, but also (at best) counterproductive and (at worst) deeply divisive. This is especially egregious given that Ceredigion already has some of the lowest levels of services available.

Additionally, by reducing our local representation in Llanddewi Brefi from 10 community councillors to 4 ward councillors, the proposal more than doubles their workload covering a much wider area. As this role is voluntary, this proposal severely limits the cohort of people who could even consider standing for community councillor to those who have that amount of time to dedicate, which would effectively push out working people/families. That clearly would not represent a sufficient cross section of our community, as it does today. Again, far from providing "fair and effective representation across communities", this proposal severely limits the type of person who could serve.

Pembrokeshire Council's proposal of allowing community councils to amalgamate if they wish, is measured, reasonable and proportionate, and maintains local community representation where it's working. Forcing community councils to amalgamate is top-down and heavy-handed. Brutish map redrawing exercises have never had much historical success, and ramming unique local communities together to fight for scraps, even less.

At a time when only 17% of the UK population thinks government is working for them (from BBC's "Start the Week" program on Radio 4 on April 15, 2024 with Tom Sutcliffe), and at a time when significant changes are hitting rural communities hardest all at the same time (from farm subsidies to energy infrastructure), introducing changes that result in less local representation is not a good look for democracy. In fact, it's down-right damaging.

Again, I urge Ceredigion Council to back down on its proposal, and instead take a more measured approach by allowing community councils to decide for themselves whether they wish to amalgamate if they feel it's necessary to address representation issues.

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5th May 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

We refer to the proposal to amalgamate our Community Council with others.

1 To link with Llangeitho seems absurd since it is miles away by road and has little or no linkage with our community.

2 A link with Lledrod seems less unacceptable, since it would meet the criteria required for a viable "community" structure. It would presumably enable better representation of our village interests. However we would still doubt that it represents a coherent local identity.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 226 – [REDACTED] – Llangwryfon

To the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission

Community Councillors are chosen and elected based on their knowledge of their area and commitment to their community. They will generally have been born, raised, educated and employed locally. This is the case for 6 of the 8 Councillors for Llangwryfon.

Reducing the number of Councillors from 8 to 2 and making them a quarter of the proposed number of representatives will not 'continue to reflect local identities'.

Three disparate areas have been drawn together, based solely on the number of electors, with no consideration of the differences and unique characteristics of each area.

In any meeting of the proposed Community Council, two thirds of the Councillors will be in no position to make valid contributions on issues affecting the other areas. One must ask, how will this 'facilitate effective and convenient local government'?

The number of electors in the proposed New Council area is the same as the total number of electors in the areas governed by the three previous Councils. But the number of Councillors expected to administer and fulfil their statutory responsibilities is reduced from 22 to 9 under this proposal. How does this ensure 'electoral parity and democratic fairness'?

Llangwryfon Community Council is in a unique position due to receiving financial contributions each year from two wind farm companies. These funds have been legally assigned to be used for the benefit of associations and clubs within the catchment area of Llangwryfon Community Council. We must not lose sight of these acknowledged boundaries.

None of the Llangwryfon Councillors receive payment for their services – which saves money for the County Council. However, if they are called upon to travel further for meetings, they may possibly claim costs, which will lead to an increase in the precept in order to meet the additional costs.

If 9 people are expected to undertake the same work as 22, it is inevitable that they will want to be compensated for it, and compensating politicians for their time and expertise is the only public service that never suffers cuts – there are only continual increases.

Llangwryfon Council currently meets in St Ursula's Hall, which is central and convenient. Looking to the future and noting the tendency to hold 'hybrid' meetings with some attendees contributing via Zoom, such a meeting would not be possible in the village of Llangwryfon since the Hall does not have Wi-Fi facilities.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Llangwryfon

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

8 May 2024

Dear Chief Executive,

I write as a resident of the Community of LLANGWRYFON. I don't personally agree with the proposed changes to the Community of Llangwryfon. If only 2 councillors will be representing the Community of Llangwryfon, how can we achieve a cross-section of the community? The current Llangwryfon Community councillors are doing an excellent job. They are part of the community, and they work hard and conscientiously for their community, with pride and a sense of belonging. Reducing the number of councillors and extending the area of the community will weaken feelings of belonging and pride. Electing young people from the community to these local councils serves to develop their interest in the community and a close relationship with it. They are keen to help and to do their best to support the close-knit community in every possible way. Reducing the number of councillors will lead to depriving the area of support. The council receives funding from wind farms each year. How then will that be distributed, I wonder.

I feel that the government is currently trying to destroy community and rural life. If the number of electors is the problem, how does having more members in the Senedd help the situation? It is noted that those members will be paid a salary. From where does that money come? From destroying rural communities?

With disappointment

[REDACTED]

Ceredigion 228 – [REDACTED] – Llangwryfon

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Llangwryfon
[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am not in favour of the proposed changes to how our Community Council is to be run.

We share no local identity with Llangeitho. When it comes to voting on matters how will we get a fair result if we do not have as many representatives for our district?

Also our councillors will have to travel 15 miles in winter conditions over difficult roads for some of the meetings.

Our councillors have our needs and things we do not need at heart as they are local to Llangwryfon.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
5th May 2024

To the Chief Executive

RE: The Proposed Community of Llangeitho

We write to you to express our strong opposition to the proposed merger of our community of Llangwryfon with those of Ledrod and Llangeitho. What shared identity links our community to that of Llangeitho? How will our community interests be effectively looked after in this merged scenario with a 75% reduction in Community Councillors? For Ceredigion County Council to define a community by elector numbers is an insult. Being a part of this proposed merger will impact our communities potential access to community groups and community resources in the future. Consider the impact this would have on our sense of community and identity. Diverse, active and proud communities like Llangwryfon are one of the factors in maintaining a strong future for Wales. The Future Wales National plan describes improving the health and well-being of communities, our well-being must be protected through maintaining our community identity and ensuring our community interests are represented. I urge you to reconsider this proposal.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

My thoughts on becoming a
part of a larger Llangetho
Area.

I concede that number of electors
in Llangwryfon is somewhat small.
However, Llangetho in particular
seems somewhat remote from my
place of abode. — Not so much
Lledrod. Surely there must be
communities nearer and more
pertinent to Llangwryfon if
we must be reorganised.

Dear Sir/Madam

On behalf of Llanrhystud
Community Council.

We the Council feel the proposed
changes to the boundaries and
and changes to the number of
local councillors representing
Llanrhystud i.e. less councillors
for the ward is unworkable over
such a large rural area.

If changes are to take place
we would feel more comfortable
if these represented the current
County Council area, which
would be of more benefit to our
constituents.

Chair

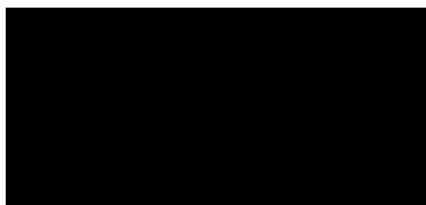
Llanrhystud Community Council
Charles Green

To: [REDACTED]

PROPOSED CHANGES AFFECTING THE COMMUNITY OF LLANRHYSTUD

I have experience of serving as a member within local government in Ceredigion, and I offer the following comments on the proposals to change Community Council boundaries and to merge Llanrhystud and other communities:

1. The whole purpose of this layer of local government is to represent, serve, and be close to natural and organic communities which have a historical sense of belonging.
2. There are no natural community connections between the Llanrhystud area and communities north of the River Ystwyth such as Capel Seion and Llanfihangel y Creuddyn.
3. For practical reasons (viability), the guidance specifies that an electorate of at least 800 for each Community is reasonable. And the Community of Llanrhystud meets that requirement.
4. The current proposals appear to be a bureaucratic, simplistic effort to meet statistical targets, without any understanding or recognition of these communities. Reiterating point 1 above, they are therefore completely unacceptable and impractical.
5. Having only 3 councillors representing Llanrhystud on the proposed new Community Council would be completely inadequate and nonsensical. It would destroy local democracy. There would be no financial benefits either, since community councillors are not paid for their services.
6. If the current boundaries must be extended, it would be more rational to merge Llanrhystud with an area where a community relationship already exists – such as Llangwryfon (within the same Ceredigion Council ward).
7. Assuming that the Community of Llanrhystud will continue more or less as it is, the proposal to treat it as a single ward instead of the three existing wards (Deiniol, Haminiog, Mefenydd) makes sense.
8. The current proposal must be refused and opposed, and the Boundary Commission must re-examine the situation from the beginning. *'Back to the drawing board!'*



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Local Democracy & Boundary Commission Wales
Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
Cardiff
CF24 OBL

30/04/24

Dear Chief Executive,

Llanrhystud Community (consisting of Deiniol, Myfenydd and Haminiog wards and 803 electors) exceeds Ceredigion County Council's Council Size policy and should not be disbanded.

The proposal for the Llanrhystud and Llanfarian communities to be merged electorally is also bizarre as the communities are geographically and socially disparate and have different identities and needs. The two communities are 6.2 miles apart have distinct, separate characteristics. Llanfarian is two miles distant from Aberystwyth and Llanrhystud a rural, seaside village which is also home to three large caravan parks. Other than the two communities having different interests and needs the only route between the two communities is along the A487 along which it is not possible to walk or cycle. The last bus from Llanfarian in the evening also leaves at 20:42 which would mean that electors from the Llanrhystud Community would not be able to attend full Community Council meetings held in Llanfarian.

In sum, the number of electors in the Llanrhystud community meets CCC's size policy and the Boundary Commission's proposals for the Llanrhystud Community would remove representation and disenfranchise Llanrhystud electors.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Local Democracy and Boundary Commission Wales
Hastings House
Fitzala Court
CARDIFF
CF240BL

10 May 2024

Re. Draft Proposals Report for Community Arrangements of the County of Ceredigion

Dear Chief Executive,

I am writing to you to voice my disappointment with the proposals made in your draft report regarding the boundaries and composition of communities in Ceredigion and the number of Councillors representing electors within these communities.

With the demography of local communities becoming broader with time, it is difficult to see how by reducing the number of representatives (Community Councillors) from a community the Commission has "considered the need for electoral parity and democratic fairness for all electors." Also, how will a 64% reduction in the number of Community Councillors ensure that community statutory responsibilities are carried out effectively?

Regarding the proposed merging of Llanrhystud Community with that of Llanfarian Community, I would question what shared local identity is it that links Llanrhystud to Capel Seion or Llanbadarn, more than to say Llangwryton, for example? How exactly does this proposed Community "continue to reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government?" Llanrhystud and Llangwryton already fall under the same Community boundary and are served by the same County Councillor - why would you suggest combining areas that are served by two different County Councillors?

Please reconsider your proposals as I sincerely believe they do not best serve the people and the communities.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Comments by Llanbadarn Fawr Community Council in regard to the

Review of the Community Arrangements of the County of Ceredigion Draft Proposals Report (March 2024) by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales

Clause 236

- *We strongly disagree that “the proposal provides for more effective and convenient local government”*

Clause 252 re council size policy submitted by Ceredigion County Council entitling a proposed Faenor and Llanbadarn Fawr Community Council size of 12 councillors:

- *This figure is unworkably small and would pose many, many problems for the Community Council proposed. In regard to having good democracy in the future, we believe that the figure of 12 councillors for such a large geographical area is untenable.*

Further comments

Identity of Llanbadarn Fawr

Llanbadarn Fawr has a *strong* identity and this has not been diluted to any great degree by demographic changes in the last couple of decades. Indeed, people living in Llanbadarn Fawr relate to the place as being much, much older than Aberystwyth nearby and they understand that it is a settlement that dates from antiquity. The Council’s Coat of Arms reflects this understanding.

Having a Community Council of our own enhances Llanbadarn Fawr’s distinctive and widely-cherished identity.

Sulien Ward and Padarn Ward

The proposed reduction of councillors in Sulien Ward from 9 to 3 and in Padarn Ward from 6 to 3 would pose a significant problem for residents in our wards.

The things achieved in Llanbadarn (and many things hoped for, and being planned for) are predicated on having a good number of local people volunteering to represent their fellow residents. This creates a good bond between people generally and helps sustain a community that faces many challenges (such as loss of green areas; lack of affordable housing; poor infrastructure [e.g. drains, culverts]; traffic issues).

From time to time, looking after both wards’ interests demands a great deal from its current number of councillors. Having fewer councillors would mean having a workload that would be excessive at times.

It needs to be noted that Community Councillors are concerned citizens willing to volunteer to devote time to representing their community with their personal resources. Consequently, we feel that the proposed larger council area would weaken the effectiveness of a community council that would be much smaller in number. The workload, too, on 12 councillors in the proposed set-up would dissuade people from standing for election as Community Councillors. We’re quite sure that

many capable people would choose not to stand for seats on such a council.

Human Resources

Recruiting clerks is very challenging and places great demands on Community Councils.

The clerks of both Llanbadarn Fawr and Faenor are part-time (and sole) employees who work from home. Creating a 'Faenor and Llanbadarn Fawr' community area creates a much larger working landscape with an increased number of challenges for the one and only clerk that a new council would employ.

We feel strongly that this would impose a considerable burden on a Clerk and would quickly consume her/his working week leaving much, inevitably, unattended too. In fact, a council in its capacity as a responsible and caring employer, would need to restrict projects (e.g. in areas of partnership working) in order to ensure that the Clerk's workload was reasonable and provided for a sensible work-life balance. In our view, the workload on a clerk in the proposed arrangement would deter people from applying for the post of Clerk/RFO.

Economic pressure from the Local Authority

It has been noticeable for quite some time that the LA has been endeavouring to share out its functions to Community Councils (e.g. maintenance of playgrounds, cleaning roads, weeding roadsides). With the best will in the world, most Community Councils should not take on additional functions which are not legal duties upon them. However welcome Community Councils working alongside the LA is, a smaller Community Council of an enlarged area could face pressure to take on financially-burdensome tasks that would add to the workload of both Clerk and Councillors.

Government and democracy

Were the proposal to establish a Faenor and Llanbadarn Fawr Council to be realised then the 12 elected Councillors and their Clerk would have to cope both with being responsible for a new geographical area (with its particular and additional demands on them) and negotiate community life with diminishing financial resources (and the attendant public discontent). Furthermore, running sub-committees would be much harder with a reduced number of councillors. Many capable people would baulk at the thought of standing for election as Community Councillors in such circumstances. The combined community-level government that is proposed for our two neighbouring areas looks very unattractive and not easily workable.

As in many areas, Llanbadarn Fawr Community Council has had to work hard from time to time to address the democratic deficit in relation to unfilled seats. Establishing the proposed new council area, in our view, would exacerbate the problem of the democratic deficit in both the communities involved. Many community councillors in our two areas are not politically aligned and even when they are, political lines are drawn only extremely rarely. The basic motivation for being a councillor here is to help the community at ground level to be a happy and successful one and to get people to work together for the good of all. Certainly in Llanbadarn, Councillors are generally well-known. The proposed arrangement, having far fewer councillors, would undermine this beneficial and co-operative relationship.

Llanbadarn Fawr Community Council

Clerk: [REDACTED]

9.5.24

Ceredigion 236 – [REDACTED] (Clerk) - Llanfarian Community Council

Dear Sirs

Yours faithfully

I write in my capacity as Clerk To Llanfarian Community Council and in particular to this consultation. Please find observations attached

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

The Boundary Commissioners

Dear Sirs

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your draft findings. Llanfarian Community Council consider the current community boundaries fit for purpose and should be kept as they are.

Reasons to support this are noted as follows:

1. The number of councillors is set to be reduced which would put greater pressure on the appointed community councillors. It is hard enough at times to recruit new councillors without the increased workload. The area to represent will deter individuals from coming forward.
2. The new area is too great a coverage to be of value to the community. Councillors wouldn't know the area or be able to engage with all residents in the same way that they can now.
3. A reduction in the number of councillors would increase the likelihood of failing to reach a quorum at meetings.
4. The sense of 'Community' would be lost.
5. Llanfarian Community Councillors serve for free therefore reducing the number of councillors would not lead to any savings to the local authority.

Yours sincerely

Llanfarian Community Council

12/05/2024



To whom it may concern

Ceredigion Community Review – Draft Proposals

I contact you this evening regarding the draft proposal, outlined in the Ceredigion Community Review, to merge Llangynfelyn community council, Ysgubor-y-Coed community council, and Ceulanamaesmawr community council.

As the current clerk to both Ysgubor-y-Coed and Llangynfelyn community councils, I feel particularly well placed to outline some considerations which The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission (The Commission) may not have considered prior to their draft proposal :

1. These 3 community councils are very different due to each of their respective ward population.
2. The demographic of each of these wards is very different – Ysgubor-y-Coed is mainly rural with 3 small to medium size villages, Llangynfelyn has 2 much larger villages, whilst Ceulanamaesmawr ward has one large village (Talybont) and one small village as well as much rural area.
3. Both Ysgubor-y-Coed and Llangynfelyn wards will possibly lose their individual identity if this proposed merger goes ahead.
4. Both Ysgubor-y-Coed and Llangynfelyn community councils currently support groups and events held in Ceulanamaesmawr ward however, if the proposed merger leads to a loss of identity and/or control for either/both of these wards, this support may be adversely affected going forward.
5. All 3 wards are currently represented by x1 County Councillor, which The Commission recommended status quo, who is supported by the community councillors on each individual community council. The proposed merger and drastic **reduction in community councillor numbers** will not only directly affect the individual ward electors, but will also have a very dramatic workload impact on any future county councillor.
6. With the proposed division of community councillors stacked heavily in favour of Ceulanamaesmawr ward – x4 community councillors, on the proposed Community of Ceulanamaesmawr community council, the current wards of Llangynfelyn – proposed x2 community councillors, and Ysgubor-y-Coed – proposed x1 community councillor, will never be able to achieve a majority on any given resolution, even if they pool their votes. This, in reality, positions Ceulanamaesmawr as an autocracy and although I do not believe that any of the current or future Ceulanamaesmawr councillors would behave in such a manner, it would be a very dangerous situation for The Commission and/or Ceredigion County Council to unintentionally instigate.

7. The Commission will need to carefully consider the possible effects of the proposed merger on the electoral equality and democratic fairness for all electors across all 3 current wards.
8. The current Ceulanamaesmawr ward is much larger in terms of population than either Ysgubor-y-Coed or Llangynfelyn ward, due to the much larger village of Talybont. However, it is only slightly geographically larger than Ysgubor-y-Coed ward but The Commission draft proposal suggests that x1 councillor could represent the Ysgubor-y-Coed ward whilst Ceulanamaesmawr enjoy x4 councillors. This will, no doubt, leave electors in Ysgubor-y-Coed under-represented and potentially cause electors to disengage with elections going forward.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the words of your own Chief Executive **Shereen Williams** MBE OStJ, Chief Executive of the Welsh Local Democracy and Boundaries Commission - ***“Communities are the level of government closest to the people, and it is essential that they continue to represent people correctly in all parts of Ceredigion” and “we now need to hear from the people of Ceredigion so that we (The Commission) are in the best possible position to produce final recommendations that meet the needs of the county’s residents.”***

I know, from personal experience, all the current and past councillors of Ysgubor-y-Coed community council and Llangynfelyn community council work extremely hard to represent all their electorate. Each community councillor is fully aware of their duties and responsibilities and embrace them with sincerity. I am confident in my consideration that this is also the position with community councillors at Ceulamamaesmawr community council. **Please do not withdraw the current level of representation and replace it with notably less (27 community councillors reduced to 7) due to a numbers assessment.**

Yn gywir



Resident and elector Llangynfelyn ward

Clerc Cyngor Cymuned Ysgubor-y-Coed

Clerc Cyngor Cymuned Llangynfelyn