

ERP CAERPHILLY 006 – Councillor Charlotte Bishop

Numerous large housing projects will build this area up significantly and three cllrs are necessary to ensure adequate representation

ERP CAERPHILLY 007 – Councillor Carol Andrews

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to submit my observations on the Electoral Review of Caerphilly: Draft Proposals.

It says in the Introduction of the report that The Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru reviews the electoral arrangements and ward boundaries every 12 years. However, the last time Caerphilly Ward boundaries were reviewed was 2020, only five years ago. This begs the question, why?

We have recently had a by election in Caerphilly following the death of Hefin David MS and many residents are already confused by the many boundary changes our area has endured. Another boundary change will compound the confusion.

On paper, this draft proposal seems reasonable, however, paper and maps are flat, they do not consider mountains, roads, bus routes and three completely different communities, each with their own individual agendas and issues. The Greater Bargoed area, as defined by Bargoed Town Council is a cohesive community, as described in the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, where people from the different communities have positive relationships, a shared sense of belonging and equal opportunities. However, people in Gilfach identify themselves as living in Gilfach, not Bargoed or Aberbargoed. This proposal does not, I believe, protect the well being of the future generations of Gilfach. Historically, Bargoed and Gilfach were one ward but previous councillors, notably the late Harry Andrews MBE, campaigned for two distinct wards and the people of Gilfach have always been grateful for this.

Also I object to the name of the new electoral ward, where Gilfach and Aberbargoed have disappeared. As I have already said residents do not identify as living in Bargoed.

I sincerely hope that you reconsider this change in the electoral arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Carol Andrews

Cynghorydd Sir - Gilfach | County Councillor - Gilfach

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili | Caerphilly County Borough Council

ERP CAERPHILLY 008 – Councillor Carol Andrews

Good afternoon Sir or Madam,

Further to my email yesterday (attached) I would like to propose an alternative proposal for the Wards of Aberbargoed and Bargoed and the Gilfach Ward. The Park ward of Bargoed sits between Gilfach and Bargoed and could be moved to the Gilfach Ward to alleviate the levels of variance from the existing county average in

the Aberbargoed and Bargoed electoral ward. Residents in the Park ward already think they live in Gilfach (due to their postal address) and contact me as their local Councillor so this would not be a big change for them. This proposal would also safeguard the electoral ward names of Aberbargoed and Gilfach.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Carol Andrews

Cynghorydd Sir - Gilfach | County Councillor - Gilfach
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili | Caerphilly County Borough Council

ERP CAERPHILLY 009 – Member of the Public

These are quite distinct areas with different requirements and varying demographics. Being adjacent is not a good reason to merge them. They are fine as is.

ERP CAERPHILLY 010 – Member of the Public

Boundary merger between Ynysddu ward and Crosskeys Ward I believe that the two wards should NOT merge for the reasons listed below.

1) Different Parliamentary and Senedd Boundaries for residents of the Ynysddu and Crosskeys Wards The recent by-election in Caerphilly Constituency due to the sudden death of Dr Hefin David, has resulted in confusion among many residents, who did not realise they were not entitled to vote. Currently, the Ynysddu and Crosskeys Ward are in two different Parliamentary constituencies (Ynysddu: Chris Evans MP for Caerphilly and Crosskeys: Ruth Jones MP for Islwyn and Newport) and Welsh Government elections (Ynysddu: Blaenau Gwent Caerffili Rhymini and Crosskeys: Casnewydd Islwyn).

If the Ynysddu and Crosskeys Wards merge, it would cause absolute chaos for residents to understand which MP/Senedd Member to vote for in the next Parliamentary and Senedd elections.

2) At the last boundary review Ynysddu Ward residents STRONGLY objected to a merger with the Crosskeys Ward The Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru reviews the electoral arrangements and ward boundaries every 12 years, so we are told. However, the last time Caerphilly Ward boundaries were reviewed was 2022. Only three years ago!
At the consultation for merging the Ynysddu and Crosskeys Wards, carried out by the Democracy and Boundary Commission in 2022, was strongly contested by residents of the Ynysddu Ward. A handwritten 1034 named petition was handed to the then First Minister Mark Drakeford and individual letters from residents, community

groups and the Lower Sirhowy Valley Communities Partnership were sent. Ultimately the decision was rescinded, and the merger did not take place.

Therefore, why are the Democracy and Boundary Commission carrying out another review 3 years later ?

3) Policy Requirements for a Boundary Review To avoid a well-meaning repeat of the Commissions last proposal, we respectfully suggest that you consider your Electoral Reviews: Policy and Practice 2025, Considerations for a Review of Principal Area Electoral Arrangements :

'When carrying out an electoral review the Commission is required by Section 30 of the 2013 Act to have regard to the following factors':

Special geographical considerations, including in particular the size shape and accessibility of an electoral ward; and Any local ties (Including local ties connected to the use of the Welsh language) that would be broken by changes to the electoral arrangement in the area.

Our valley is a family with the villages of Wyllie, Ynysddu, Cwmfelinfach, Brynawel and Wattsville which are all closely linked through business, sports clubs, an industrial estate, outlying farms, community partnership, religious institutions, schools, youth groups, doctor and police surgeries, country park and tourism. We are close communities who identify with each other. The Ynysddu Ward is a proud community that has stood firm when challenged by authority and we would ask that you do not consider any change in the Boundary of the Ward.

4) Both communities are not compatible.

On paper, the merger between Ynysddu and Crosskeys Wards, seems reasonable, however, paper and maps are flat, they do not consider mountains, roads, bus routes and two completely different communities, the Sirhowy Valley and the Ebbw Valley, each with their own individual agendas and issues. Both communities are not compatible.

Looking in the opposite direction (north of Ynysddu Ward) we are looking at Pontllanfraith Ward. Again, a totally different very busy Ward with three Councillors, who I believe would not welcome merger with any part of the Ynysddu Ward.

5) No Historical links between Ynysddu and Crosskeys Wards There is a huge workload in the Ynysddu Ward as there are several large issues which take an enormous amount of time for whoever are elected as two representatives of the Ward. Ty Llwyd Quarry, known nationwide as a site which had contaminated industrial refuse (including PCB's) dumped there in the 1970 by local and international companies – still to be cleaned up! There is also an unwanted controversial Recycling Factory in the middle of the Ward and a pending Open Cast Mine which is being strongly contested by residents. These are issues which will not go away any time soon and are in addition to the usual issues that all Councillors have in their Wards.

Both Cllr Janine Reed and Cllr Jan Jones, are two local people, who now represent the Ynysddu Ward. If the proposal to merge is reinstated, future candidates, who want to represent their community, would be faced with an additional electoral area of which they have no knowledge or historical links. Localism means trusting elected representatives to know how best to meet local needs and then holding them to account through the ballot box.

> Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

ERP CAERPHILLY 011 – Member of the Public

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to submit my comments on the Electoral Review of Caerphilly Draft Proposals.

The Boundary Commission reviews the Electoral arrangements and ward boundaries every twelve years so why is it only five years since the last review of Caerphilly? Five years since the last change to the Bargoed ward when it was merged with Aberbargoed and one councillor was lost. Now you want to merge the Aberbargoed and Bargoed ward with Gilfach, with Aberbargoed and Gilfach disappearing from the new name completely. I live in Gilfach, not Bargoed and consider my needs different to someone who lives in Bargoed or Aberbargoed.

Residents are already confused by the many boundary changes we have already faced, at Westminster and Senedd levels and this new change will make people not want to vote at a time when we need more interest in our communities, not less.

I propose you change the boundary of Bargoed to strengthen the ward of Gilfach and preserve it for future generations.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Gilfach resident.

ERP CAERPHILLY 012 – Member of the Public

This ward should be called Pen-Yr-Heol, not Penyrheol, if you are changing names to reflect their correct Welsh spelling/pronunciation.

ERP CAERPHILLY 013 – Member of the Public

Will this also include the merger of the two community councils?

It would be good if these changes could also save the council tax payers in the ward(s) money as instead of employing two clerks, a single one could oversee a single council.

ERP CAERPHILLY 014 – Member of the Public

These name changes seem somewhat unnecessary - if there is no real cost involved then perhaps this is ok, but at a time when money is tight is a hyphen or no 'and' really that important?

ERP CAERPHILLY 015 – Member of the Public

We live in South Wales - a prominent non Welsh area there is absolutely no need to change the names to Welsh. It's unnecessary and is a form of isolation to the majority of English speaking communities. The Welsh language is being forced upon us and that is wrong. I'm 68 and have lived in this area all my life without speaking Welsh. The choice to learn Welsh should be that - a choice. Change boundaries but leave the names unaltered.

ERP CAERPHILLY 016 – Member of the Public

Do you agree with the Commissions proposed electoral wards? Yes

Can you provide further information or provide alternative proposals? No

ERP CAERPHILLY 017 – Councillor Kevin Etheridge

Dear Sir

Caerphilly County Borough Review Ynysddu and Crosskeys Ward proposed merger

> Having been brought up and lived in Wyllie Village in the Ynysddu Ward for 22 years I believe the Boundary Commission proposal to merge with the Crosskeys Ward would be folly of the highest order,

> 1 The Ward consists of various villages Wyllie, Ynysddu, Cwnfelinfach, Brynawel and Wattdville all within the Sirhowy Valley

> 2 For decades it has been one community,

> 3 This will alienate the small villages and reduce the community focus and partnership
> working losing identity

> 4 It will achieve nothing as there will be no reduction in elected members

> I hope the petitions commenced will make the Boundary Commission listen as it did previously and adapt common sense, and I would urge the commission to reject any changes to ward boundaries

> Cllr Kevin Etheridge OBE
> Caerphilly County Borough Councillor

ERP CAERPHILLY 018 – Member of the Public

Dear Sir or Madam,

I wish to object to the proposals regarding the Gilfach ward being amalgamated with Bargoed and Aberbargoed.

I have lived in Gilfach all my life and [REDACTED] fought for Gilfach to be separate from Bargoed. I am a proud Gilfach resident so please do not change this. Gilfach is a village in it's own right and is separate to Bargoed and Aberbargoed.

Regards

[REDACTED]

ERP CAERPHILLY 019 – Member of the Public

Dear Sir or Madam,

I wish to object to the proposals regarding moving the Gilfach electoral ward into Bargoed and Aberbargoed.

I have lived in Gilfach all my life and do not want this proposal to go ahead. Can you move the boundaries of Gilfach to make the area larger to give the current councillor more residents to represent.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

ERP CAERPHILLY 020 – Member of the Public

Do you agree with the Commissions proposed electoral wards? No

Can you provide further information or provide alternative proposals? No

ERP CAERPHILLY 021 – Member of the Public

Do you agree with the Commissions proposed electoral wards? Yes

Can you provide further information or provide alternative proposals? No

Cllr Kevin Etheridge



14/11/25.

Dear Boundary Commission
CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

With the increased population within
the Blackwood Ward I wish to
propose an increase from 3 to 4
elected members in the Ward.

A new development of houses have been
built in Blackwood North at the location
known as Cwmgelli.

Also can we please amend on the
polling districts known as Cefn Forest
East to Blackwood West.

Yours Sincerely

Cllr Kevin Etheridge

ERP CAERPHILLY 023 – Member of the Public

Do you agree with the Commissions proposed electoral wards? No

Can you provide further information or provide alternative proposals? No

ERP CAERPHILLY 024 – Member of the Public

Do you agree with the Commissions proposed electoral wards? Yes

Can you provide further information or provide alternative proposals? No

ERP CAERPHILLY 025 – County Councillor Janine Reed and County Councillor Jan Jones

Hello Boundary Commission,

Please find detailed below a list of reasons why we think the two wards of Ynysddu and Crosskeys should NOT merge.

1) Different Parliamentary and Senedd Boundaries for residents of the Ynysddu and Crosskeys Wards

The recent by-election in Caerphilly Constituency due to the sad and sudden death of Dr Hefin David, has resulted in confusion among many residents, who did not realise they were not entitled to vote.

Currently, the Ynysddu and Crosskeys Ward are in two different Parliamentary constituencies (Ynysddu: Chris Evans MP for Caerphilly and Crosskeys: Ruth Jones MP for Islwyn and Newport) and Welsh Government elections (Ynysddu: Blaenau Gwent Caerffili Rhymni and Crosskeys: Casnewydd Islwyn).

If the Ynysddu and Crosskeys Wards merge, it would cause absolute chaos for residents to understand which MP/Senedd Member to vote for in the next Parliamentary and Senedd elections.

2) At the last boundary review Ynysddu Ward residents STRONGLY objected to a merger with the Crosskeys Ward

The Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru reviews the electoral arrangements and ward boundaries every 12 years, so we are told. However, the last time Caerphilly Ward boundaries were reviewed was 2022. Only three years ago!

At the consultation for merging the Ynysddu and Crosskeys Wards, carried out by the Democracy and Boundary Commission in 2022, was strongly contested by residents of the Ynysddu Ward. A handwritten 1034 named petition was handed to the then First Minister Mark Drakeford and individual letters from residents, community groups and the Lower Sirhowy Valley Communities Partnership were sent. Ultimately the decision was rescinded, and the merger did not take place.

Therefore, why are the Democracy and Boundary Commission carrying out another review 3 years later ?

3) Policy Requirements for a Boundary Review

To avoid a well-meaning repeat of the Commissions last proposal, we respectfully suggest that you consider your Electoral Reviews: Policy and Practice 2025,

Considerations for a Review of Principal Area Electoral Arrangements :

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Any local ties (Including local ties connected to the use of the Welsh language) that would be broken by changes to the electoral arrangement in the area.

Our valley is a family with the villages of Wyllie, Ynysddu, Cwmfelinfach, Brynawel and Wattsville which are all closely linked through business, sports clubs, an industrial estate, outlaying farms, community partnership, religious institutions, schools, youth groups, doctor and police surgeries, country park and tourism. We are close communities who identify with each other. The Ynysddu Ward is a proud community that has stood firm when challenged by authority and we would ask that you do not consider any change in the Boundary of the Ward.

4) Both communities are not compatible.

On paper, the merger between Ynysddu and Crosskeys Wards, seems reasonable, however, paper and maps are flat, they do not consider mountains, roads, bus routes and two completely different communities, the Sirhowy Valley and the Ebbw Valley, each with their own individual agendas and issues. Both communities are not compatible.

Looking in the opposite direction (north of Ynysddu Ward) we are looking at Pontllanfraith Ward. Again, a totally different very busy Ward with three Councillors, who I believe would not welcome merger with any part of the Ynysddu Ward.

5) No Historical links between Ynysddu and Crosskeys Wards

There is a huge workload in the Ynysddu Ward as there are several large issues which take an enormous amount of time for whoever are elected as two representatives of the Ward. Ty Llwyd Quarry, known nationwide as a site which had contaminated industrial refuse (including PCB's) dumped there in the 1970 by local and international companies – still to be cleaned up! There is also an unwanted controversial Recycling Factory in the middle of the Ward and a pending Open Cast Mine which is being strongly contested by residents. These are issues which will not go away any time soon and are in addition to the usual issues that all Councillors have in their Wards.

Both Cllr Janine Reed and Cllr Jan Jones, are two local people, who now represent the Ynysddu Ward. If the proposal to merge is reinstated, future candidates, who want to represent their community, would be faced with an additional electoral area of which they have no knowledge or historical links. Localism means trusting elected representatives to know how best to meet local needs and then holding them to account through the ballot box.

Thank you,

Cllrs Reed and Jones

ERP CAERPHILLY 026 – Member of the Public

Why change something that has worked well now you want to change it I say leave it as it is
Ynysddu ward

ERP CAERPHILLY 027 – Member of the Public

Join crosskeys and pontywaun with risca not the current proposal.

ERP CAERPHILLY 028 – Member of the Public

When I first read about it, I thought it was totally ridiculous because the Boundary Commission has in recent years cut any possible links between the Crosskeys and Pontywaun Ward and the Wyllie, Ynysddu, Cwmfelinfach and Wattsville Ward.

In the next Senedd election the people of Crosskeys and Pontywaun Ward will not be in the same constituency as the people in the Wyllie, Ynysddu, Cwmfelinfach and Wattsville Ward.

In the next General Election the people of Crosskeys and Pontywaun Ward will not be in the same constituency as the people in the Wyllie, Ynysddu, Cwmfelinfach and Wattsville Ward.

It seems totally contrary to any common sense therefore to put the two wards together for local authority elections.

In addition, we must consider that after the next local elections, if the plans go ahead, the Crosskeys/Ynysddu Ward might have 3 councillors all resident in one of the villages mentioned. Whilst the work being done by the two councillors for the Wyllie, Ynysddu, Cwmfelinfach and Wattsville Ward is exceptional & during the time I have been involved with certain projects with these two hard working women, I have only admiration for them, I believe that we in the Crosskeys and Pontywaun Ward should have a local resident representing us, a person with local knowledge and a person who faces the same problems that others in the ward face.

ERP CAERPHILLY 029 – Bargoed Town Council

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached representation from Bargoed Town Council in response to the Review of the Electoral Arrangements of the County Borough of Caerphilly Draft Proposals Report.

Members feel strongly that the loss of two community names will have a detrimental effect on the area within which the Town Council functions, and would request consideration of an alternative proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind Regards/Cofion Cynnes,





BARGOED TOWN COUNCIL

28th November 2025

To whom it may concern:

Review of Electoral Arrangements of the County Borough of Caerphilly Draft Proposals Report.

In respect of the proposal to amalgamate the two electoral wards of ~~Aberbargoed~~ and Bargoed with that of Gilfach; Bargoed Town Council request consideration is given to the community ward of Park, which at the 2023 review consisted of 694 electors. This community ward is currently included in the ~~Aberbargoed~~ and Bargoed electoral ward within Caerphilly County Borough.

Residents of the Park ward identify as living within Gilfach, as per their postal addresses, for example: ~~Heol Fargod~~, Gilfach, Bargoed CF818PP; Park View, Gilfach, Bargoed CF818QP. The overall, historical sense of identity lies not within Bargoed, but that of the Gilfach community, particularly as the Park Estate (which forms the Park community ward) as is colloquially known, is in fact the Gilfach ~~Fargod~~ Estate. Furthermore, ~~Aberbargoed~~ residents already struggle with the amalgamation of the ~~Aberbargoed~~ and Bargoed electoral ward areas, arguing their community identity has been eroded. This will be further exacerbated should the community of Gilfach be combined, with the removal of both community names of ~~Aberbargoed~~ and Gilfach from the electoral ward areas.

Members would strongly recommend that the Park community ward electors are removed from the ~~Aberbargoed~~ and Bargoed electoral ward and combined with the existing Gilfach electoral ward. This action would bring the number of electors per councillor closer to the county average in both the ~~Aberbargoed~~ and Bargoed ward and that of the Gilfach ward.

Members would also strongly recommend that the identify of Gilfach as a separate community is not removed by its amalgamation with the ~~Aberbargoed~~ and Bargoed electoral ward; Members would suggest it will be preferable to local residents if Caerphilly County Borough was to retain the two distinct electoral wards of ~~Aberbargoed~~ and Bargoed; and Gilfach.

Bargoed Town Council looks forward to receiving final confirmation of the electoral arrangements for Caerphilly County Borough Council.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Town Clerk/RFO
for Bargoed Town Council.

[Redacted Contact Information]

ERP CAERPHILLY 030 – Member of the Public

When I first read about it, I thought it was totally ridiculous because the Boundary Commission has in recent years cut any possible links between the Crosskeys and Pontywaun Ward and the Wyllie, Ynysddu, Cwmfelinfach and Wattsville Ward. In the next Senedd election the people of Crosskeys and Pontywaun Ward will not be in the same constituency as the people in the Wyllie, Ynysddu, Cwmfelinfach and Wattsville Ward. In the next General Election the people of Crosskeys and Pontywaun Ward will not be in the same constituency as the people in the Wyllie, Ynysddu, Cwmfelinfach and Wattsville Ward. It seems totally contrary to any common sense therefore to put the two wards together for local authority elections.

In addition, we must consider that after the next local elections, if the plans go ahead, the Crosskeys/Ynysddu Ward might have 3 councillors all resident in one of the villages mentioned. Whilst the work being done by the two councillors for the Wyllie, Ynysddu, Cwmfelinfach and Wattsville Ward is exceptional & during the time I have been involved with certain projects with these two hard working women, I have only admiration for them, I believe that we in the Crosskeys and Pontywaun Ward should have a local resident representing us.

ERP CAERPHILLY 031- Member of the Public

I do not understand why the Crosskeys and Ynysddu wards have been merged? They both need their own representation so there is no need for any change.

ERP CAERPHILLY 032 – Member of the Public

Do you agree with the Commissions proposed electoral wards? Yes

Can you provide further information or provide alternative proposals? No

ERP CAERPHILLY 033 – Member of the Public

Do you agree with the Commissions proposed electoral wards? Yes

Can you provide further information or provide alternative proposals? No

ERP CAERPHILLY 034 – Member of the Public

How much money is going to be wasted by introducing these changes ? It is all for nothing leave them as they are

ERP CAERPHILLY 035 – Member of the Public

Do you agree with the Commissions proposed electoral wards? Yes

Can you provide further information or provide alternative proposals? No

ERP CAERPHILLY 036 – Member of the Public

Dear sir / madam, I am writing to you regarding the possible merge of Risca east and west wards ,personally I don't have a problem with both wards merging together, but the name i have an issue with ,just being called the Risca ward,on one of your maps,it shows the sub wards of Pontymister lower and upper ,Pontymister ty-sign,Ty-isaf fields and Ochrwyth and also Trenwydd ward, technically all these wards are in Pontymister this is the reason I'm writing to you, if the wards do merge I would like to see the name Pontymister included in it , in respect of its rich history and heritage ,sadly Pontymister has lost its identity to Risca, so hopefully this will be taken into consideration .

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ERP CAERPHILLY 037 – Member of the Public

Here are a list of reasons why we think the two wards should NOT merge - please use any of these points when writing to the Boundary Commission:

1) Different Parliamentary and Senedd Boundaries for residents of the Ynysddu and Crosskeys Wards

The recent by-election in Caerphilly Constituency due to the sad and sudden death of Dr Hefin David, has resulted in confusion among many residents, who did not realise they were not entitled to vote.

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If the Ynysddu and Crosskeys Wards merge, it would cause absolute chaos for residents to understand which MP/Senedd Member to vote for in the next Parliamentary and Senedd elections.

2) At the last boundary review Ynysddu Ward residents **STRONGLY objected to a merger with the Crosskeys Ward**

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last time Caerphilly Ward boundaries were reviewed was 2022. Only three years ago!

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ERP CAERPHILLY 038 – Caerphilly County Borough Council Cross Party Working Group

Hi there

Please find attached the response to the Caerphilly draft proposals from our cross party working group.

Any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Dave

David Beecham

Electoral Services Manager | Electoral Services Manager

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili | Caerphilly County Borough Council

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Principal Area Review – Draft Proposals

Comments agreed by Cross Party Working Group 5/11/25

Division(s)	Working Group View
<p>Risca East/Risca West</p> <p>Aberbargoed & Bargoed / Gilfach</p>	<p>Recommends that the existing arrangements remain in place.</p> <p>The Group believes that the formation of large multi-member wards is not desirable in some cases and can lead to increased councillor workload, presents geographical challenges and reduces individual accountability.</p> <p>The working group at a previous review objected to the merger of Aberbargoed and Bargoed on the grounds that they are very different communities with their own identities. The group believes this argument is more relevant this time around and as equally applicable to Risca East/West.</p> <p>At previous reviews the Commission have argued that single member wards are preferable and that only in exceptional cases and where there is evidence of substantial local support would 4 member wards be formed. These proposals seem at odds with that principle.</p>
<p>Aber Valley</p>	<p>Recommends that the existing level of representation remains in place.</p> <p>The United Welsh housing development of 152 homes on the former Windsor colliery site (building work has started) has not been factored into the 5-year forecast of the potential electorate. Whilst difficult to estimate the number of additional electors it is estimated that the level of representation be closer to -17% than -20%. This would be similar to other areas in the county borough where no changes are proposed.</p>
<p>Crosskeys and Ynysddu</p>	<p>The working group recognises that Ynysddu appears to be overrepresented, and Crosskeys underrepresented but does not have a consensus view on the best way to ensure electoral parity.</p>

ERP CAERPHILLY 039 – County Councillor Bob Owen

I am contacting you further to my initial representation with respect to the Commissions' draft proposals for the unification of Risca East & West. I fully expected that CCBC would make representation in opposition, and I have been asked for my views on this by my independent group leader who is a member of a working group set up to discuss and comment on the draft report. In essence I do not see any substance whatsoever within the council's comments (I have copied my views on below) hence my position remains unchanged, that the wards are merged in line with that at community level. I have consulted heavily on this matter with residents across both wards and I have not had any negative feedback hence I can say with some confidence that the vast majority of residents will welcome a re-united Risca.

.....
CCBC recommends that the existing arrangements remain in place. The Group believes that the formation of large multi-member wards is not desirable in some cases and can lead to increased councillor workload, presents geographical challenges and reduces individual accountability.

My Comments: the commission has recommended that Risca be merged at community level from 2027, fully agreed at WG ministerial level. This is pertinent in that Risca was seen as a single 'the community of Risca' which in essence it always has been, the east / west split is invisible. I object to the working group view that 'multi-member wards are not desirable (in some cases) and can lead to increased councillor workload' as they offer nothing to support it. Furthermore, why only 'not desirable in some cases.'? What cases? This is view is totally unsubstantiated. Re geography, in terms of its overall border Risca (combined) is very clearly defined with all areas very easily accessible hence the reference to 'geographical challenges' can only be viewed as an off-the cuff statement as it is unsupported by any reasoned argument or references. Re reduced individual accountability, what is this based on? I would counter this; whether members are in two, three, even four member wards there is no way of knowing what each individual member's workload is particularly if the ward is cross party represented.

The working group at a previous review objected to the merger of Aberbargoed and Bargoed on the grounds that they are very different communities with their own identities. The group believes this argument is more relevant this time around and as equally applicable to Risca East/West.

My Comments: in reference to the 'different communities with their own identities' statement - with respect to the Risca east / west divide this has been previously

mooted by members of Risca East but without any reasoned logic. If we consider the ward split being (above and below) the railway line, in practice this is not followed as part of Risca west is north (above) of the railway line. Furthermore, with respect to distinct communities, this may be applicable to Aberbargoed and Bargoed, but for Risca it is not. Risca is (always has been) viewed as a single community by its residents hence the groups' comment in reference to Risca is made without support or logic. The commissions' recommendation for Risca is based on sound principles that recognises the single community that it is, and similarly with the decision made at community level (to merge two community councils to form one) it will further save on invaluable resources as Risca moves from 3+2 to 4 members with the member-to-resident ratio coming broadly into line with the commissions' targets for the borough.

At previous reviews the Commission have argued that single member wards are preferable and that only in exceptional cases and where there is evidence of substantial local support would 4 member wards be formed. These proposals seem at odds with that principle.

My Comments: prior to CCBC's formation Risca was a single community, and I cannot stress enough that it still is. Split by a north/south boundary which is not even adhered to I do not know what the rationale behind a decision made many years ago to split the community was, perhaps it was politically motivated? Whatever the reason the residents of Risca have always been as one, this recommendation will make it official and is welcomed by all bar a few.

.....

Regards

Cllr Bob Owen

Cynghorydd Sir - Gorllewin Rhisga | County Councillor - Risca West
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili | Caerphilly County Borough Council

ERP CAERPHILLY 040 – Member of the Public

Risca should be one ward not two

ERP CAERPHILLY 041 – Member of the Public

I am strongly opposed to the merger of these two wards. It appears that you are simply looking at numbers not geography or communities. Crosskeys is not associated with the Ynysddu ward at all and never has been. You ask anyone from Crosskeys and they would be more associated with Risca. I live in the Ynysddu ward and have an office and business in Risca. The two wards merging will not be a happy outcome

I hereby put forward my reasoning for why the wards should not be merged. Each and every point is applicable.

1) Different Parliamentary and Senedd Boundaries for residents of the Ynysddu and Crosskeys Wards

The recent by-election in Caerphilly Constituency due to the sad and sudden death of Dr Hefin David, has resulted in confusion among many residents, who did not realise they were not entitled to vote.

Currently, the Ynysddu and Crosskeys Ward are in two different Parliamentary constituencies (Ynysddu: Chris Evans MP for Caerphilly and Crosskeys: Ruth Jones MP for Islwyn and Newport) and Welsh Government elections (Ynysddu: Blaenau Gwent Caerffili Rhymni and Crosskeys: Casnewydd Islwyn).

If the Ynysddu and Crosskeys Wards merge, it would cause absolute chaos for residents to understand which MP/Senedd Member to vote for in the next Parliamentary and Senedd elections.

2) At the last boundary review Ynysddu Ward residents **STRONGLY objected to a merger with the Crosskeys Ward**

The Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru reviews the electoral arrangements and ward boundaries every 12 years, so we are told. However, the last time Caerphilly Ward boundaries were reviewed was 2022. Only three years ago!

At the consultation for merging the Ynysddu and Crosskeys Wards, carried out by the Democracy and Boundary Commission in 2022, was strongly contested by residents of the Ynysddu Ward. A handwritten 1034 named petition was handed to the then First Minister Mark Drakeford and individual letters from residents, community groups and the Lower Sirhowy Valley Communities Partnership were sent. Ultimately the decision was rescinded, and the merger did not take place.

Therefore, why are the Democracy and Boundary Commission carrying out another review 3 years later ?

3) Policy Requirements for a Boundary Review

To avoid a well-meaning repeat of the Commissions last proposal, we respectfully suggest that you consider your Electoral Reviews: Policy and Practice 2025,

Considerations for a Review of Principal Area Electoral Arrangements :

‘When carrying out an electoral review the Commission is required by Section 30 of the 2013 Act to have regard to the following factors’:

Special geographical considerations, including in particular the size shape and accessibility of an electoral ward; and

Any local ties (Including local ties connected to the use of the Welsh language) that would be broken by changes to the electoral arrangement in the area.

Our valley is a family with the villages of Wyllie, Ynysddu, Cwmfelinfach, Brynawel and Wattsville which are all closely linked through business, sports clubs, an industrial estate, outlying farms, community partnership, religious institutions, schools, youth groups, doctor and police surgeries, country park and tourism. We are close communities who identify with each other. The Ynysddu Ward is a proud community that has stood firm when challenged by authority and we would ask that you do not consider any change in the Boundary of the Ward.

4) Both communities are not compatible.

On paper, the merger between Ynysddu and Crosskeys Wards, seems reasonable, however, paper and maps are flat, they do not consider mountains, roads, bus routes and two completely different communities, the Sirhowy Valley and the Ebbw Valley, each with their own individual agendas and issues. Both communities are not compatible.

Looking in the opposite direction (north of Ynysddu Ward) we are looking at Pontllanfraith Ward. Again, a totally different very busy Ward with three Councillors, who I believe would not welcome merger with any part of the Ynysddu Ward.

5) No Historical links between Ynysddu and Crosskeys Wards

There is a huge workload in the Ynysddu Ward as there are several large issues which take an enormous amount of time for whoever are elected as two representatives of the Ward. Ty Llwyd Quarry, known nationwide as a site which had contaminated industrial refuse (including PCB's) dumped there in the 1970 by local and international companies – still to be cleaned up! There is also an unwanted controversial Recycling Factory in the middle of the Ward and a pending Open Cast Mine which is being strongly contested by residents. These are issues which will not go away any time soon and are in addition to the usual issues that all Councillors have in their Wards.

Both Cllr Janine Reed and Cllr Jan Jones, are two local people, who now represent the Ynysddu Ward. If the proposal to merge is reinstated, future candidates, who want to represent their community, would be faced with an additional electoral area of which they have no knowledge or historical links. Localism means trusting elected representatives to know how best to meet local needs and then holding them to account through the ballot box.

Regards



ERP CAERPHILLY 042 – Member of the Public

Good evening

I am writing to make a representation in support of the draft proposal to merge Risca East and Risca West wards — including the merger of their respective community councils — into a single, unified Risca ward with four county councillors.

I believe this merger would benefit residents for the following reasons:

1. **Improved accountability and governance**

While Risca East Community Council operates with good transparency and appropriate oversight, I have concerns regarding the governance of **Risca West Community Council**.

In my experience, spending and support decisions within Risca West have not always been subject to consistent due diligence, and there have been occasions where personal views or relationships appear to have influenced outcomes.

A single community council would establish a unified governance framework, ensuring that public funds and community decisions are handled impartially and with equal scrutiny across all of Risca.

2. **Review of Clerk roles to ensure consistent, councillor-led decision-making**

As part of the reorganisation, I would strongly encourage the Commission (and subsequently the newly formed council) to **review the credentials, training, and suitability of the Clerks** serving the community councils.

It is essential that:

- Clerks act strictly in an advisory and administrative capacity,
- All decisions remain in the hands of elected councillors, and
- Procedures are applied consistently, transparently, and without undue influence from any individual officer.
- Ensuring that the Clerk role across the unified council is professional, well-regulated, and standardised would significantly improve fairness and accountability.

3. **Stronger community identity and coherent representation**

Risca is, in practice, a single community with shared interests. A merged ward and community council would reflect this reality and help ensure that local decisions are made holistically rather than divided between two separate bodies.

4. **Efficiency and financial benefits**

Reducing the number of county councillors from five to four would generate savings and reduce duplication of work.

Similarly, one community council instead of two would streamline processes, reduce administrative overheads, and create clearer lines of responsibility.

5. **Fairer and more consistent representation**

A single ward structure supports the Commission's aim of achieving electoral equality and providing balanced representation across the whole area.

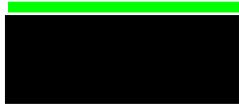
6. **Clearer communication and service delivery**

A unified community council would give residents one clear point of contact for local matters, reducing confusion and improving the responsiveness and transparency of local governance.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Commission proceeds with the proposal to merge Risca East and Risca West wards and unify the community councils. I believe these changes — alongside a review of Clerk roles — would strengthen governance, enhance accountability, and better serve the people of Risca.

Thank you for considering my representation.

Yours faithfully,



ERP CAERPHILLY 043 – County Councillor Janine Reed and County Councillor Jan Jones

Dear Democracy and Boundary Commission

Opposition to the Merger of Ynysddu and Crosskeys Wards -V- Suggested merger of Gelli Groes village into Ynysddu Ward.

As a proposed addendum to our previous e-mail to the Boundary Commission please see a recent situation which has occurred which we believe supports our suggestion of merging the village of Gelli Croes up to the A472 into the Ward of Ynysddu, thereby going some way to correcting the 'under representation' of the Ynysddu Ward.

Entrance road into Wyllie

The only entrance to Wyllie is a connecting road between Gelli Groes and Wyllie known locally as 'The Private' - the only access road for Wyllie residents. The Ynysddu Ward jurisdiction ends at the last house in Wyllie. In the past this has caused confusion when Council officers contact the Pontllanfraith Councillors when it is the Ynysddu Councillors who have the need to know.

Recent Gas Leak – Road Closure

A recent potentially dangerous situation occurred in Heolddu Road, Gelli Groes NP12 2HS. Heolddu Road is in the village of Gelli Groes (Pontllanfraith Ward). There was a very serious gas leak. The Gas Board closed the road with immediate effect cutting off the access to Wyllie (Ynysddu Ward). Gelli Groes residents (Pontllanfraith Ward) were able to access the

main B4251 road, but Wyllie residents (Ynysddu Ward) had to use a very narrow country lane which was not suitable for two-way traffic. The Gas Board worked for 7 days to repair the leak and many drivers from Wyllie found travelling the, now crowded, narrow lane terrifying. Many just did not go out. There was no bus into Wyllie for those 7 days causing much distress. Some residents had to rely on neighbours to get them food.

All the above happened from Thursday 27th November to 3rd December.

We are explaining this to you is to give you some idea of how these two local communities are connected. Any issues in Gelli Groes (Pontllanfraith Ward), impacts greatly on Wyllie (Ynysddu Ward). It makes sense for both villages to be included in the same Ynysddu Ward. CCBC officers often do not realise the demographics of the two Wards and there are delays in notifying the Wyllie Councillors.

Below to illustrate the situation, please see an email sent to the Council officers at the time of the above incident.

Extract from E-mail sent to CCBC officers on 2nd December 2025.

Good afternoon

I thank you for coming back to Cllr Reed and me regarding the Heolddu Road gas issue. Gelli Groes is an anomaly. Ever since I have been a Councillor, I have had to get involved in this road, as it is the only way residents who live in Wyllie can get out. Ynysddu Ward stops at number 50 Glanhwy Road – yet any issues on the entrance road into Wyllie has always been reported by the Ynysddu Councillors. Similarly, drainage/ issues when Heolddu flooding impacts the B4251 are reported by whoever is the Ynysddu Councillor as Wyllie residents must get out of the village.

I am always careful not to encroach on anywhere else in the Pontllanfraith Ward, only that which directly impacts on Wyllie residents gaining access out of the village.

Usually, everything gets sorted out, however, in this instance when it was an extremely dangerous fast-moving incident which could have resulted in loss of life, things had to move quickly and not every officer is aware that Ynysddu Councillors get the backlash when residents of Wyllie are not notified as quickly as they would like.

I can only request that officers are made aware of the connection between these two wards and we all work together.

Kind regards

It has been stated by the Boundary Commission that Ynysddu Ward is under-represented, Cllrs Janine Reed and Cllr Jan Jones have previously suggested that Gelli Groes, up to the A472 should be incorporated into the Ynysddu Ward, thereby making up some of the numbers.

We believe the above supports our request that the merger of Ynysddu and Crosskeys is not pursued but that the merger of part of Gelli Groes up to the A472 is merged with the Ynysddu Ward.

Kind regards

Cllr Jan Jones and Cllr Janine Reed

Ward Councillor for Ynysddu

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili | Caerphilly County Borough Council

ERP CAERPHILLY 044 – Councillor Kevin Etheridge

Formal Objection

Ynysddu Ward

As the local Councillor for Blackwood, I lived in Wyllie Village (Ynysddu ward for 22 years) Wyllie residents visit the Halfway House Public House, and attend the Methodist Chapel in Gelligroes this making a strong connection between the villages .

To get to Wyllie Village all transport must drive through the village of Gelligroes and it would be folly of the highest order to leave the village in the Pontllanfraith Ward.

Lane leads directly to Wyllie also – including the road

Blackwood ward

With the percentage of more houses in my Blackwood Ward I believe the increased population means the increase to 4 County Councillors should be considered please

Cllr Kevin Etheridge OBE

Blackwood Councillor

ERP CAERPHILLY 045 – Member of the Public

Penmaen should be renamed oakdale and croespenmaen should be absorbed into it. Oakdale croespenmaen and penmaen are all joined together.

ERP CAERPHILLY 046 – Member of the Public

Merging the constituencies will save money, and create a more unified locality.

The current two constituencies have two community councils, each with their own overheads. The effective cost could be halved.

ERP CAERPHILLY 047 – Member of the Public

Do you agree with the Commissions proposed electoral wards? Yes

Can you provide further information or provide alternative proposals? No

ERP CAERPHILLY 048 – Councillor John Declan McCarthy

The Gilfach ward should not be amalgamated with the ward of Aberbargoed and Bargoed. Aberbargoed and Bargoed is already a large ward, and there is already discontent among residents of Aberbargoed that their distinct identity and community needs are being overlooked by the loss of their individual ward. This same logic would apply to Gilfach. The villages of Aberbargoed and Gilfach have a sense of identity distinct from the town of Bargoed and have individual needs that are best represented by specific, dedicated councillors.

Aberbargoed and Bargoed currently has too many electors compared to the number of councillors representing the ward, while Gilfach has too few. However, the ward of Aberbargoed and Bargoed currently includes the community-level ward of Park, which covers the Gilfach Fargoed Estate. As the name suggests, this estate is historically and culturally considered to be a part of Gilfach, and residents consider themselves, by and large, to belong to the village of Gilfach. Indeed, many addresses in the area are listed as Gilfach. Moving the community-level ward of Park from the Aberbargoed and Bargoed ward and into the Gilfach ward at the level of the principal authority would reduce the discrepancy between the number of electors and councillors in both wards, if the remainder of Aberbargoed and Bargoed maintained its current three councillors and Gilfach maintained its current one councillor, while better aligning the ward boundaries with existing senses of identity and belonging.

The community-level ward of Park also ranks 27th on the most recent Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation - moving it into the smaller principal authority ward of Gilfach would allow this area to receive more direct attention from its councillor, which is much-needed given the level of deprivation measured.

If the Commission insists upon amalgamating the Gilfach ward with the Aberbargoed and Bargoed ward, I strongly suggest that the name of the ward should be changed to Aberbargoed, Bargoed, and Gilfach. The proposal to name the amalgamated ward simply "Bargoed" erases the identity of the two smaller villages and will continue to alienate residents of those villages. There is already precedent within the local authority for names which list three or more places - one example is Penyrheol, Trecenydd, and Energlyn. Listing all three communities separately also makes it more obvious to electors which areas the ward covers, reducing confusion among electors in Aberbargoed and Gilfach as to who their councillors are and where they can vote. There is no good reason to rename such an amalgamated ward simply as "Bargoed."

ERP CAERPHILLY 049 – Councillor John Taylor, Councillor John Roberts and Councillor Charlotte Bishop

I am submitting this objection on behalf of my Ward colleagues and myself to the Proposal to lose a Councillor from the Aber Valley Ward.

For the reasons stated in the attached letter we think that representation for the Aber Valley Ward should remain at 3 Councillors.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

7 th December 2025

To Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru

Re: Proposed Arrangements for Aber Valley Ward Caerffili Draft Proposals

Dear Commission Members

We are writing to object to the Proposed loss of a Councillor for the Aber Valley Ward.

The draft proposals estimate that the number of electors in the Aber Valley Ward will increase by just two by 2030. However, this does not take into account the extra residential units at the Windsor Colliery Site in Abertridwr. There will be 29 one bed units, 52 two bed units and 71 three bed homes.

We appreciate that the Commission would not take into account sites with a Planning Consent. However, work is well underway at this site. The groundworks have been completed and the start of constructing the homes is imminent. This site will give the Aber Valley Ward in excess of an extra 300 voters by 2030. This will result in the ratio of Councillors to voters in the Aber Valley Ward being similar to other Wards. The 2030 size of the electorate of the Aber Valley Ward will be greater than the Newbridge Ward which the Commission is proposing to leave at 3 Councillors.

The Aber Valley is not being treated equitably.

Yours Sincerely

Councillor John Taylor

Councillor John Roberts

Councillor Charlotte Bishop

ERP CAERPHILLY 050 – Member of the Public

Do you agree with the Commissions proposed electoral wards? Yes

Can you provide further information or provide alternative proposals? No

ERP CAERPHILLY 051 – County Councillor Bob Owen

To DBC Consultations:

Following an all councillor email received from the council's electoral services manager with respect to the councils' submission on the Commission's proposals for the borough I felt compelled to respond, and I believe my views are again very relevant with respect to the Risca East & West ward merger proposal hence I submit these as a further representation in favour of the proposed merger.

Regards

Cllr Bob Owen

Cynghorydd Sir - Gorllewin Rhisga | County Councillor - Risca West
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili | Caerphilly County Borough Council

Hi Dave,

Thanks for this. As you will imagine I am very disappointed that (even following the council's failure to convince the Commission not to merge Risca at community level) we continue to take such a stance at county level. Risca is a single community, barring an invisible boundary that most residents do not know what it is (most believe it is the canal) and it always has been. I cannot find local people who are supportive of the council's position on Risca and I call on the leader to retract our representation. I am happy to meet to discuss further, but I have outlined some of my reasoning below.

.....

The recommendation that existing arrangements remain in place. The Group believes that the formation of large multi-member wards is not desirable in some cases and can lead to increased councillor workload, presents geographical challenges and reduces individual accountability.

The commission has already recommended Risca is merged at community level from 2027, fully agreed at WG ministerial level. Their recommendation and justification were clear in that it noted our 'shared identity' and provides for 'more effective and convenient local government' as a single community. I must object to the working group view that 'multi-member wards are not desirable (in some cases) and can lead to increased councillor workload'. What is meant by 'in some cases' exactly? With nothing offered to substantiate these statements I take them as having very little or no value. Re geographical challenges, in terms of its border Risca (combined) is a very clearly defined areas all of which are very easily accessible. In fact, part of my ward (Risca West) is technically in the East as it is above the railway line hence this clearly diminishes the 'very different communities' argument. There is also nothing put forward to substantiate the geographical challenges argument. Similarly with respect to the reduced individual accountability comment, what is this based on? I would counter this with, whether members are in two, three, even four member wards there is absolutely no way of knowing what each individual member's workload is particularly if the ward is cross party represented so how can we claim it reduces individual accountability?

The working group at a previous review objected to the merger of Aberbargoed and Bargoed on the grounds that they are very different communities with their own identities. The group believes this argument is more relevant this time around and as equally applicable to Risca East/West.

In reference to the 'different communities with their own identities' statement - with respect to the Risca East / West divide this was mooted by Risca East (and I believe one West) members at the time of the community review but it was dismissed by the Commission for the reasons referred to in section 1. Similarly, if we consider the ward split being along the railway line, also as referenced above - part of Risca West is above the railway line. With respect to distinct communities, this may be applicable to Aberbargoed and Bargoed (two

separate towns / areas) but for Risca it clearly is not. Risca is (always has been) viewed locally as a single community by its residents hence the groups' comment is made without substance, certainly there is nothing offered to substantiate this view. I therefore conclude that the commissions' recommendation for Risca, based on principles similar to those at community level (in that case, to merge two community councils to form one, this time it will further save on invaluable resources as Risca moves from 3+2 to 4 members also with the member-to-resident ratio aligning broadly with the commissions' targets for the borough) will be of huge benefit locally and to the council as a whole.

At previous reviews the Commission have argued that single member wards are preferable and that only in exceptional cases and where there is evidence of substantial local support would 4 member wards be formed. These proposals seem at odds with that principle.

Prior to CCBC's formation Risca was a single community, and I really cannot stress enough that it still is. Split by a north-to-south running boundary which is compromised I do not understand our objection to the Commission's proposals for Risca? I do not see the rationale behind a decision made (circa 1996-98) to split the community was it perhaps politically motivated? Whatever the reason the residents of Risca have always been as one, the Commission's recommendation will make it official and will be welcomed by all bar a few. I will return once more to the working group comments 'only in exceptional cases and where there is evidence of substantial local support would 4 member wards be formed', there you have it in black and white.

.....
This should be retracted.

Regards

Cllr Bob Owen

Cynghorydd Sir - Gorllewin Rhisga | County Councillor - Risca West
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili | Caerphilly County Borough Council

ERP CAERPHILLY 052 – Member of the Public

I am in favour of Risca being one community council not two like it is at present.

Risca is a united community and should never have been split in the first place.

██████████

██████████

████████████████████

ERP CAERPHILLY 053 – Member of the Public

I believe the re amalgamation of Risca is a positive step and I would welcome it.

Many thanks

██

ERP CAERPHILLY 054 – Member of the Public

I have lived in Risca all my life when it was Risca Council when we were islwyn there was no need to change the boundary in the 19 90 Risca should be 1 not 2 the community has suffered so please put it back

[REDACTED]

ERP CAERPHILLY 055 – Member of the Public

I wish to support the proposal to amalgamate Risca West and Risca East wards to form a single ward of Risca.

I understand that this will result in the reduction of one councillor.

[REDACTED]

ERP CAERPHILLY 056 – Member of the Public

I wish to support the proposal to amalgamate Risca West and Risca East wards to form a single ward of Risca.

I understand that this will result in the reduction of one councillor.

[REDACTED]

ERP CAERPHILLY 057 – Member of the Public

Hello my name is [REDACTED] I would like to see the Risca East and West ward merged as one.

Thank you

ERP CAERPHILLY 058 – Member of the Public

PROPOSED MERGER OF YNYSDDU AND CROSSKEYS WARDS

I wish to strongly oppose the proposed merger of Ynysddu and Crosskeys wards in Caerphilly County Borough Council

I have not heard of a single person who supports this proposed merger.

The wards are two separate valley communities

The proposal will reduce the number of wards but the number of councillors will remain the same - no savings.

The proposal will; create unnecessary expenditure for no financial gain at a time when council budgets are under considerable pressure (CCBC are proposing to close 10 Libraries in the borough)

This merger was previously proposed some 3 years ago and after consultation at that time was dropped. Why is it being proposed again after such a short space of time?

Why is the spelling of Ynysddu proposed to be changed to Ynys-ddu. I have lived in this ward for 34 years and have NEVER seen the spelling of Ynys-ddu.

I also oppose the changing of the spelling of the names of the other wards. This borough is a predominantly English speaking area. Only 10.5 % of the population of the borough speak Welsh (2021 Census) This is unnecessary and unwanted.

Why are the boundaries for ALL election constituencies in Ynysddu ward being changed ?

We have moved from Islwyn to Caerphilly constituency for UK Parliamentary elections (at Westminster)

However we are currently still in the Islwyn constituency for elections to the Welsh Senedd. Many neighbours thought therefore we were entitled to vote in the recent by-election for a replacement member for the Caerphilly constituency at the Senedd as we are in the Caerphilly constituency for UK Parliamentary elections.

My address was previously in the Islwyn constituency for Westminster Parliamentary elections. It is now in the Caerphilly constituency. If the merger of Crosskeys and Ynysddu wards take place - will the Crosskeys part of the merged ward vote for Newport West & Islwyn candidates and the Ynysddu part vote for Caerphilly candidates ?

My address was previously in the Islwyn constituency for Welsh Senedd elections. It will now be in the Blaenau Gwent Caerffili Rhymni constituency.

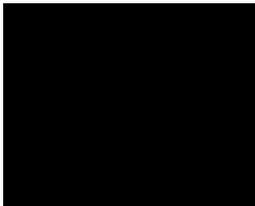
My address is currently in the Ynysddu ward for elections of councillors to Caerphilly County Borough Council. It should remain so.

I hope the Boundary Commission will listen to the residents of Ynysddu ward and once again drop this unwanted proposal to merge Ynysddu and Crosskeys wards and save the unnecessary expense.

Thank you



ERP CAERPHILLY 059 – Member of the Public



2^{NO} DECEMBER

Proposed Merger of Ynysddu and Crosskeys Wards.

Here are is list of reasons why I think the two Wards should not be merged.

1 The recent by Election in the Caerphilly Constituency due to the sad loss of Dr Hefin David has resulted in confusion

Among many residents, who did not realise they were not entitled to vote. Currently, the Ynysddu and Crosskeys Wards are in two different Parliamentary constituencies, Ynysddu Chris Evans MP for Caerphilly and Crosskeys. Ruth Jones MP

FOR Islwyn and Newport, and Welsh Government elections, Ynysddu Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Rhymni and Crosskeys.

If the Ynysddu and Crosskeys Wards merge it would cause chaos for residents to understand which, MP or Senedd Member to vote for in the next Parliamentary and Senedd elections.

2 Our valley is a family with the villages of Wyllie, Ynysddu, Cwmfelinfach, Brynawel, Wattsville and I would also add to this list, the tiny hamlet of Gelligroes, this small village lies just below the Pontlanfrith ward and has a huge historical link with the sinking of the RMS Titanic. These villages are closely linked through business, sports clubs and Industrial estates, outlaying farm, community partnership, religious institutions, schools, youth groups, doctor and police surgeries a country park and tourism centre. We are close communities who identify with each other. The Ynysddu Ward is a proud community that has stood firm when challenged by authority.

3 Other than rugby union games, there are no historical links between Ynysddu and the Crosskeys Wards, there is a huge workload in the Ynysddu Ward as there are several big issues which takes an enormous amount of time for whoever are elected as two representatives of the Ward. Ty Llwyd Quarry is a known historical site which had contaminated industrial waste, refuse and polychlorinated biphenyls PCBs these were disposed of in this site in the late 1970s by local and international companies and this needs to be cleaned up. There is also an unwanted Recycling Factory in the middle of the Ward, and a pending open cast mine which is strongly contested by this community. And these are issues that will not go away any time soon, and are in addition to the usual issues that all councillors have in their Wards.

Both Cllr Janine Reed and Cllr Jan Jones are local people, who represent the Ynysddu Ward. If the proposal to merge is reinstated, then future candidates, who want represent their community, would be faced with an additional electoral area of which they have no knowledge or historical links. Localism means trusting our elected representatives to know how to meet local needs and then holding them to account through the ballot box.

Thankyou

