

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES



Comisiwn Ffiniau
Llywodraeth Leol
i Gymru



Local Government
Boundary Commission
for Wales

**REVIEW OF COMMUNITY BOUNDARIES IN THE
COUNTY BOROUGH OF CONWY**

REPORT AND PROPOSALS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

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REPORT AND PROPOSALS

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Brian Gibbons AM
Minister for Social Justice and Local Government
Welsh Assembly Government

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 We the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales (the Commission) have completed the review of community boundaries in the County Borough of Conwy as directed by you in your Direction to us dated 16 October 2007 (Appendix 1).

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 We propose that:

... the boundary between the Community of Llandudno and the Community of Conwy is realigned to follow the boundary shown in green on the map at Appendix 3.

3. SCOPE AND OBJECT OF THE REVIEW

- 3.1 The purpose of the review is to consider whether, in the interests of effective and convenient local government, the Commission should propose changes to the present community boundaries. The review is being conducted under the provisions of Section 55 of the Local Government Act 1972 (the Act).

Procedure

- 3.2 Section 60 of the Act lays down procedural guidelines, which are to be followed in carrying out a review. In line with that guidance we wrote on 25 October 2007 to all of the Town and Community Councils in the County Borough of Conwy, the Member of Parliament for the local constituencies, the Assembly Members for the area and other interested parties to inform them of our intention to conduct the review and to request their preliminary views. We also publicised our intention to conduct the review in local newspapers circulating in the area and asked the Councils to display public notices. Notification of the start of the review and the closing date for representations to be made (10 January 2008) was given on the Commission's web site.

4. DRAFT PROPOSALS

- 4.1 In response to our initial invitation, we received representations from Conwy County Borough Council; Abergele Community Council, Bay of Colwyn Town Council, Conwy Town Council, Llandudno Town Council, Gareth Jones AM, Councillor Emlyn Thomas (Trefriw Electoral Division) and Dolwyd Action Group. In our Draft Proposals published on 17 July 2008, we considered the issues raised in the representations.

- 4.2 Suggestions for changes to community boundaries were made in the following areas: Conwy and Llandudno, and Dolgarrog and Trefriw.

Conwy and Llandudno

- 4.3 We considered the change to the boundary suggested by Llandudno Town Council noting their view that the change would benefit the management and administration of the network of footpaths in the area. We made a site visit to the area and were able to confirm that the suggested boundary would incorporate a number of footpaths into the area of Llandudno Town and would resolve a small anomaly in the boundary that has arisen since the construction of the A470. We noted that at the far Western part of their suggested boundary part of a footpath remained within the area of the Community of Conwy. We therefore proposed a small change to the suggested boundary at the Western end to ensure that the whole of a footpath is incorporated within the area of Llandudno Town.
- 4.4 We noted Conwy Town Council's opposition to the suggested boundary where they considered that the change would serve no useful purpose and would result in the loss of Marl Woods from their area. Having ascertained the full extent of Marl Woods we made a change to the suggested boundary to make sure that all of Marl Woods stays within the area of Conwy Town.
- 4.5 At the Eastern part of their suggested boundary, Llandudno Town Council pointed out that the suggested boundary would incorporate a number of properties which they considered to be part of the village of Bryn Pydew, which are within the Conwy Town Council area. During our site visit we determined that these properties were in the proximity of the village of Bryn Pydew and that the suggestion to incorporate these properties into Llandudno Community appeared to be logical and to have merit.
- 4.6 We considered that, based on the information we had received, certain changes as above would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government. We therefore proposed changes to the boundary between the Community of Conwy and the Community of Llandudno.

Dolgarrog and Trefriw

- 4.7 We considered the information provided by Mr Iwan Davies, Head of Legal Services, Conwy County Borough Council and Councillor Emlyn Thomas about the problems experienced by Dolgarrog Community Council and the suggestion to amalgamate Dolgarrog and Trefriw Community Councils. We informed both Dolgarrog and Trefriw Community Councils of this suggestion and invited their views but did not receive a response before the publication of our draft proposals. We also considered the further representation from Councillor Thomas who was of the view that the residents of Dolgarrog and Trefriw would not be in favour of the amalgamation.
- 4.8 We noted that the two communities together form the Trefriw Electoral Division of Conwy County Borough Council and appeared to have social, economic and topographical features in common. We also noted that at the recent Community

Council Elections there were only 6 candidates for the 9 seats on Dolgarrog Community Council, 2 candidates for the 8 seats in the Trefriw ward and 1 candidate for the 2 seats in the Llanrhychwyn ward on Trefriw Community Council. Given the problems reported to us in maintaining the viability of Dolgarrog Community Council, the suggestion to form a new community from the two existing communities appeared to us to be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government. We therefore proposed that a new community to be provisionally called Trefriw replaces the communities of Dolgarrog and Trefriw.

- 4.9 We made no proposals for changes to the remaining community areas within the County Borough of Conwy.

5. REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT PROPOSALS

- 5.1 In response to our Draft Proposals report we received representations from: Conwy County Borough Council; Conwy Town Council, Dolgarrog Community Council, Llandudno Town Council, Elfyn Llwyd MP, Gareth Jones AM, Councillor PC Evans (Tudno Electoral Division), Councillor R A Hughes (Tudno Electoral Division), Councillor Emlyn Thomas (Trefriw Electoral Division), Councillor Rita Jones (Dolgarrog), Councillor C Jones (Dolgarrog), Councillor David Williams (Dolgarrog), Councillor J Butters (Trefriw), the Ramblers' Association, The Friends of Ysgol Dolgarrog, the Managing Directors of Ainscough-Johnston, 114 residents (Dolgarrog and Trefriw), a petition signed by 41 residents of Trefriw and a petition signed by 223 residents of Dolgarrog. A summary of these representations can be found at Appendix 2.
- 5.2 Following the invitation from Councillor Emlyn Thomas, we were represented at a meeting in Trefriw on 22 October 2008 by our Chair, Mrs Susan Smith who was accompanied by the Deputy Secretary. The meeting was attended by representatives of both Trefriw and Dolgarrog Community Councils and members of the public from both villages (about 70 people in all). Speakers at the meeting explained that both Councils were now operating with nearly a full complement of Councillors and that there were separate and different issues for each area which people felt needed to be dealt with by separate community councils operating in each area. It was clear that it was the unanimous view of the meeting that they did not want the two councils to be amalgamated.
- 5.3 In December 2008 we were informed that there were again difficulties within Dolgarrog Community Council with further resignations. We understand that these difficulties are on going.

6. ASSESSMENT

Conwy and Llandudno

- 6.1 In our Draft Proposals report we proposed changes to the boundary between the Communities of Conwy and Llandudno.
- 6.2 In response Conwy Town Council stated that it continued to object to any boundary changes. The Town Council had a specific concern about the proposed change to the boundary between the Deganwy ward of the Community of Conwy and the Tudno ward of the Community of Llandudno. They felt that the proposed change would impact on Conwy Town Council's ability to influence potential planning decisions that may have a direct impact on property owners in the Deganwy ward. Llandudno Town Council were however of the view that the affected area was part of an area designated as a green wedge where there was a presumption against development. They considered that the boundary change would not preclude either Town Council commenting on planning applications to the Planning Authority.
- 6.3 We have noted that in their development plans Conwy County Borough Council have designated the area to the north of the housing in the Deganwy ward as a Green Barrier. We consider therefore that, in this particular area, the issues of development and planning decision-making do not have an impact on our determination of the community boundary. The small change to the boundary in this area that we proposed in our Draft Proposals report made sure that a footpath would be included wholly within the Community of Llandudno. We remain of the view that our proposal to change the boundary between the Deganwy ward of the Community of Conwy and the Tudno ward of the Community of Llandudno is desirable in terms of effective and convenient local government.
- 6.4 In the area of the Pensarn ward of the Community of Conwy that is proposed in our draft proposals to be moved into the Penrhyn ward of the Community of Llandudno, Conwy Town Council is of the understanding that there are no public footpaths that run through that area. Conwy County Borough Council were of the view that the proposed boundary in this area could lead to confusion. They considered that some of the properties to be moved to Llandudno would be further away from Bryn Pydew (in Llandudno) than other properties that would stay in Conwy.
- 6.5 Llandudno Town Council continued to support the proposal for this area as they considered (in their initial representation) it would incorporate a number of properties into Llandudno Community, which they considered to be part of the village of Bryn Pydew. The change to the boundary in the area of Bryn Pydew was also supported by Councillor P C Evans. We considered the point made by Conwy County Borough Council that the proposed boundary would be confusing. We are of the view however that the proposed boundary is less confusing than the existing boundary in defining a distinct division between two community areas. Owing to the nature of the area with respect to the position and grouping of properties it is clearly difficult to define an 'ideal' community boundary in this area. We consider however that the proposed change is an improvement to the existing boundary in

that it includes within the Community of Llandudno a number of properties that appear to us to have local ties with that Community. We therefore consider that our proposed change to the boundary in this area would be desirable in terms of effective and convenient local government and that the proposed boundary moreover follows easily recognisable topographical features.

- 6.6 In respect of the proposed changes to the boundary to the east of Bodysgallen Hall, Conwy County Borough Council suggested that the boundary should lie to the south of the track to allow that part of Public Right of Way (PROW) 63 to be included within Llandudno. This suggestion was also supported by Llandudno Town Council and Councillor Evans. It is in line also with the views expressed by the Ramblers' Association. We have considered these representations and have found that there are identifiable topographic features to the south of the footpath that can be used to form a suitable boundary. We have therefore made a minor change to our proposed boundary in this area.
- 6.7 Having considered all of the evidence available to us about the boundary between the Communities of Conwy and Llandudno we propose the change to the boundary marked in green on the map at Appendix 3

Dolgarrog and Trefriw

- 6.8 In our Draft Proposals report we stated our concerns about the operation of the Dolgarrog and Trefriw Community Councils and proposed the merger of the two existing communities to form a single community. We have noted that in response to our Draft Proposals report we have received a large number of comments from both communities all of which expressed opposition to our proposal.
- 6.9 We noted the time and effort that has been put in by elected representatives in the area to notify the residents of our proposals and to encourage them to make their views known to us. Our meeting with local residents was also helpful to our consideration of this matter. We are disappointed to learn of the continuing difficulties at Dolgarrog. Having considered the views of the residents and the current operation of the two Community Councils we are now of the view that it would not be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government to change the current arrangement of these two areas. We therefore make no proposals about the Communities of Dolgarrog and Trefriw. It will be a matter for Conwy Council to decide whether the Dolgarrog Community Council should be dis-established should it not be possible to establish a working council.

7. PROPOSALS

- 7.1 Having considered all of the evidence available to us we propose that the boundaries of the Communities of Conwy and Llandudno should be realigned in the area under review to follow the boundaries shown in green on the map at Appendix 3.

7.2 Detailed maps to a larger scale showing the proposed new boundaries can be inspected at the offices of the Conwy County Borough Council and at the office of the Commission in Cardiff.

8. CONSEQUENTIAL ARRANGEMENTS

8.1 In considering the various changes to the community boundaries it was also necessary for us to take account of the effects on the electoral arrangements for community councils and the principal authority, which would result from these changes. This section of our report details our proposals for consequential changes to the electoral arrangements. The electoral statistics used in this report were given by Conwy County Borough Council. Under Schedule 11 we need to take into account any change in the number or distribution of the local government electors likely to take place within the period of five years immediately following the consideration. We have sought information on this matter from Conwy County Borough Council who, whilst not currently having figures available at electoral division level, have estimated an increase of 2% across the whole of Conwy. We have taken this increase into account.

Community Council Electoral Arrangements

8.2 The Community of Conwy is divided, for community electoral purposes, into the community wards of Aberconwy, Castle, Deganwy, Marl and Pensarn. The next table shows the number of electors and councillors for each ward:

Community	Ward	Electors	Councillors	E/C*
Conwy	Aberconwy	1,429	2	715
	Castle	1,944	2	972
	Deganwy	3,122	4	781
	Marl	2,890	4	723
	Pensarn	2,104	3	701
		11,489	15	766

* Electors per Councillor

8.3 Under our proposals the Pensarn ward of the Community of Conwy will decrease by 10 electors to 2,094. We do not consider that these changes or the estimated increase in the number of electors need a change in the number of councillors or the warding arrangements for the Community of Conwy.

8.4 The Community of Llandudno is currently divided, for Community electoral purposes, into the community wards of Craig-y-Don, Gogarth, Mostyn, Penrhyn and Tudno. The next table shows the number of electors and councillors for each ward:

Community	Ward	Electors	Councillors	E/C
Llandudno	Craig-y-Don	2,764	6	461
	Gogarth	2,954	6	492
	Mostyn	2,727	6	455
	Penrhyn	3,804	6	634
	Tudno	3,580	6	597

- 8.5 Under our proposals the Penrhyn ward of the Community of Llandudno will increase by 10 electors to 3,814. We do not consider that these changes or the estimated increase in the number of electors require a change in the number of councillors or the warding arrangements for the Community of Llandudno.

County Borough Council Electoral Arrangements

- 8.6 The Penrhyn Electoral Division consists of the Penrhyn ward of the Community of Llandudno with 3,804 electors represented by 2 councillors. Under our proposals the number of electors in the Penrhyn ward will increase by 10 electors to 3,814. We do not however consider the change to be so significant as to require an increase in the number of councillors representing the electoral division.
- 8.7 The Pensarn Electoral Division consists of the Pensarn ward of the Community of Conwy with 2,104 electors represented by 1 councillor. Under our proposals the number of electors in the Pensarn ward will decrease by 10 electors to 2,094. We do not however consider the change to be so significant as to require a decrease in the number of councillors representing the electoral division.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 We wish to express our gratitude to Conwy County Borough Council and the Community Councils for their help and to all persons and bodies that made representations to us.

10. THE NEXT STEPS

- 10.1 Having completed our consideration of the review of community boundaries in the County Borough of Conwy and submitted our recommendations to the Welsh Assembly Government, we have fulfilled our statutory obligation under the Act.
- 10.2 It now falls to the Welsh Assembly Government, if it thinks fit, to accept them or to direct the Commission to conduct a further review.
- 10.3 Any further representations concerning the matters in the report should be addressed to the Welsh Assembly Government. They should be made as soon as possible, and in any event not later than six weeks from the date that the Commission's recommendations are submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government. Representations should be addressed to:

Democracy Team
Local Government Policy Division
Welsh Assembly Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

MR P J WOOD (Chairman)

REV. HYWEL MEREDYDD DAVIES BD (Deputy Chairman)

Mr D J BADER (Member)

E H LEWIS BSc. DPM FRSA FCIPD (Secretary)

February 2009

THE WELSH MINISTERS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 PART IV

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR
WALES (REVIEW OF COMMUNITY BOUNDARIES)(COUNTY
BOROUGH OF CONWY) DIRECTION 2007**

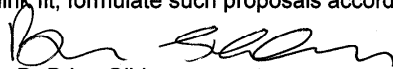
The Welsh Ministers give the following Direction to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales in exercise of the powers conferred upon the Secretary of State by section 56 of the Local Government Act 1972⁽¹⁾ which powers are now exercisable by the Welsh Ministers⁽²⁾:

1. In this Direction:

"the Act" ("y Ddeddf") means the Local Government Act 1972;

"the Commission" ("y Comisiwn") means the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales.

2. Pursuant to section 56(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers direct the Commission to conduct a review of the community boundaries in the County Borough of Conwy for the purpose of considering whether or not to make such proposals in relation to the area reviewed as are authorised by section 54 of the Act and what proposals, if any, to make; and the Commission must, if they think fit, formulate such proposals accordingly.


Dr Brian Gibbons

Minister for Social Justice and Local Government

Date 16/10/07

⁽¹⁾ 1972 c.70; section 56 was amended by the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994.

⁽²⁾ See the National Assembly for Wales (Transfer of Functions) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/672) which transferred the functions of the Secretary of State to the National Assembly for Wales. The functions of the Assembly were subsequently transferred to the Welsh Ministers by schedule 11 to the Government of Wales Act 2006 (2006 c.38).

Summary of Representations Received in Response to the Draft Proposals

CONWY AND LLANDUDNO

Conwy Borough Council, Iwan Davies, Head of Democratic Services noted that the boundary along the Ffrith Road and Pydew Road should remain the same as the proposed change could lead to confusion. Some properties on the north of the roads would be transferred to the Penrhyn Ward and would be further away from Bryn Pydew than properties south of the road.

Mr Davies had also received a separate representation from a Councillor in Llandudno in respect of the boundary to the east of Bodysgallen Hall. The proposed boundary would encompass a field currently in Llandudno into the county of Conwy. Mr Davies noted that the new boundary needs to be such that it includes PROW (Public Right Of Way) 63 within Llandudno i.e. the boundary should be south of the track way along the line of the fence and not the wall to the north.

Conwy Town Council stated that the Council continue to reject any boundary changes. The council expressed concern that the proposed new boundary between Deganwy and Tudno wards would run directly behind approximately 60 homes in the Deganwy ward, the existing boundary running across an empty field. The Council felt that this would cause problems with potential planning applications. If plans were submitted to develop on the site of the field then the planning application would go to Llandudno Town Council for comment rather than Conwy Town Council, although it would be the residents of Deganwy who would be most affected by any potential neighbouring development.

With regards to the maintenance of footpaths in the Pensarn ward, the Council were of the understanding that there were no footpaths which run through that area which would require any maintenance.

However the Council was pleased to note that the Commission has recognised the importance of Marl Woods to the Town Council area.

Llandudno Town Council wrote that the proposed changes shown in Appendix D of the draft report meet the wishes of the Council. The council would ask that the position of the boundary to the north of 'Eastern Covert', the proposed change in the Pensarn ward, does include the public right of way i.e. the boundary should be the fence line to the south.

The Council also noted the views of Conwy Town Council and made the following comments:

- ... Neither Town Council is the Planning Authority
- ... The area affected is long standing green wedge with presumption against development
- ... It is not unusual for Community or Ward boundaries to run up to the established boundaries of properties

- ... Any boundary change would not preclude either Town Council commenting on planning applications or making representations to the Planning Authority.

Councillor P C Evans, Tudno Electoral Division, Conwy County Borough Council, wrote to support the Commission's proposals in so far as the Tudno Electoral Division of Llandudno is affected for the reasons outlined in the Report. The councillor also agreed with the proposed change to the Pydew area; however he did suggest that the new boundary should follow the fence line so that the existing Public Right of Way 63 remains within the Community of Llandudno.

Councillor R A Hughes, Tudno Electoral Division, Conwy County Borough Council, wrote to support the Commissions recommendations in so far as the Tudno/ Deganwy section of the Conwy/ Llandudno boundary was concerned.

The Ramblers' Association, Conwy County Committee wrote in support of the commissions' proposed boundary change between Conwy and Llandudno Town Council, stating that the suggestions would assist The Association in carrying out inspections and reporting maintenance requirements. They also make the following points;

- ... they actively monitor the condition of footpaths in both Communities to ensure that adequate maintenance is undertaken by Conwy CBC;
- ... the current boundary is not consistent with the most efficient administration and maintenance of the PROW network as the paths within the location concerned are detached from the rest of those in the Conwy Community but form part what is essentially the Llandudno network.

DOLGARROG AND TREFRIW

Dolgarrog Community Council summarised the general comments against the Commissions proposals with regards to Dolgarrog and Trefriw; collated from public meetings, the village petition and letters of objection. These being that:

- ... Dolgarrog Community Councillors are in the process of liaising closely with the new owners of the factory site with regards to the new build
- ... Dolgarrog Community Councillors have worked in co-operation with Yes Solutions, the owners of the new build of ten houses on Gwydyr Road
- ... The two villages are dissimilar
- ... The merger would create animosity between the two villages
- ... The village would lose its identity

Elfyn Llwyd, MP for Meirionnydd Nant Conwy wrote to say he was of the firm opinion that Dolgarrog and Trefriw Communities should remain as they are. He also stated that new employers attracted by the regeneration of Dolgarrog would wish to discuss matters relating to Dolgarrog with a Dolgarrog Community Council rather than an amalgam of the two councils.

Mr Llwyd also recognises that most seats on both Community Councils have been filled.

Gareth Jones, Assembly Member for Aberconwy wrote to support and reaffirm Councillor Emlyn Thomas' contentions as stated below. Mr Jones has also addressed these concerns to the Minister, Dr Brian Gibbons.

Councillor Emlyn Thomas, Conwy County Borough Council wrote with regards to the Commissions proposal to merge Dolgarrog and Trefriw. Councillor Thomas enclosed a summary report of opinions taken from a public meeting held in Dolgarrog on 6 October 2008, Trefriw Community Council meeting on the 7 October 2008 and opinions from residents in both communities. The residents of Dolgarrog are opposed to the proposals on the grounds that increased industrial investment and activity in Dolgarrog will require developers to, "consult with a community council representing Dolgarrog community alone". The Commission's proposals are seen as jeopardising the redevelopment of the Dolgarrog community.

From the perspective of Trefriw the amalgamation is seen as decreasing the effectiveness and cohesion of the Trefriw community and its associated council by dividing its powers across the new conjoined communities. The several success stories of Trefriw community councils past activities were cited i.e. the upgrading of public footpaths maintained by the council and the formation of new Sports and recreation Sub-Committee. Councillor Thomas also suggests that a member of the Commission attend a public meeting being held in Trefriw on the 22 October 2008.

Councillor Rita Jones, Dolgarrog Community Council wrote to strongly object to the proposed merger of Dolgarrog and Trefriw Community Councils stating that Dolgarrog would be losing its representation on the new community council. Councillor Jones also stated that Dolgarrog were in the process of creating a museum to the Dam Disaster, and that control over the centre belonged to the residents of Dolgarrog, which would be lost if the two communities were to be amalgamated. Cllr Jones also states that the village of Dolgarrog has regeneration plans for the future which could be compromised by the possible lack of representation and disinterest in 'Dolgarrog' matters of the amalgamated council.

Councillor C Jones, Dolgarrog Community Councillor wrote to the Commission as a resident of Dolgarrog to express her concerns that the proposed Dolgarrog and Trefriw amalgamation would result in Dolgarrog Village losing its representation in the new combined Community Council.

Councillor David Williams of Dolgarrog Community Council wrote to strongly object to the proposed merger between Dolgarrog and Trefriw Community Councils. Councillor Williams states that the problems faced by Dolgarrog Community in filling Council Seats are not unique to the council and are not a valid reason for the merger, which he views as causing more problems.

Councillor J Butters, Trefriw Community Councillor wrote to say she considers that the Commission's proposal to amalgamate Trefriw and Dolgarrog would be detrimental. Councillor Butters does not agree with the Commissions reasons behind this decision, that there was a lack of filled Council seats and that the Council was not fully functional. Councillor Butters stated that it takes several months for the seats to be filled and that the Council was pro-active and the meetings were well attended.

The Friends of Ysgol Dolgarrog representing the children and parents of those who attend Dolgarrog School wrote to the Commission to object to the merger. The main concern highlighted was that if the parents or the school board were to request a donation, or other fund for the school, then the lack of fair representation of Dolgarrog interests on the newly amalgamated council would lead to such requests being overlooked.

A resident and ex County and District Councillor wrote to object to the merger of Dolgarrog and Trefriw noting that the councils conduct their meetings in different mediums. Minutes and Meetings in Trefriw were conducted in Welsh whilst those in Dolgarrog are produced and conducted in English. Dolgarrog initially wished to disband the Community Council due to the quality of services it received by Conwy Council.

He also suggests that if a merger was to be considered then a more feasible option would be a merger with the village of Tal y Bont as it is only half a mile away.

A resident and ex Dolgarrog Community Councillor wrote to object to the suggested merger between Dolgarrog and Trefriw Community Council. The Council have worked hard to keep the village in good condition and have purchased an old clinic and turned it into a community centre. She also suggested that the Commission meet with the Dolgarrog Community Council to discuss the suggestion.

The Managing Director of Ainscough-Johnston (a strategic land, property and development finance business) wrote to state that his company has committed to ongoing investment in the long term regeneration of Dolgarrog village via the purchase of the former Dolgarrog Aluminium Factory. He saw that the proposed merging of the Dolgarrog and Trefriw communities could unduly affect Dolgarrog's attempts to create an economically sustainable and attractive environment by making their concerns secondary to those of other settlements in the area. He also suggests that "the village and its community can act independently to promote transformational change" as the village needs to "punch well above its weight in terms of attracting much-needed investment".

A director of a local business wrote to object to the amalgamation of Trefriw and Llanrhychwyn with Dolgarrog Community Council stating that the two villages were very different and both had a full complement of Councillors on their Community Councils.

A local businessman and resident of Trefriw wrote to object to the Commission's proposal to merge the Trefriw and Dolgarrog Community Councils. He stated the lack of reasonable proximity of the two communities as a reason against the merger as well as a lack of a common focus between the communities. Residents from neither community utilise the facilities of the other, residents in Trefriw preferring to use the shopping facilities in Llanrwst and those in Dolgarrog preferring to use those at Llandudno Junction.

A resident of Trefriw wrote to object to the Commission's proposed merger of Trefriw and Dolgarrog as the two villages are separate and unique communities. She also stated that distance between the two communities would require the councillors to travel to meetings, resulting in "both financial and environmental costs". This might also result in fewer people wishing to serve on the council if additional travel was required of the post.

A resident of Pant Du, Trefriw, wrote to the Commission objecting to the proposals to combine the communities of Dolgarrog and Trefriw stating that the lack of a safe pedestrian route between the two communities forms a barrier.

Residents Trefriw – 14 representations were received from the general residents of Trefriw, all against the Commission's proposals. The following points of note against the Commission's proposals to amalgamate Trefriw and Dolgarrog are:

- ... Dolgarrog and Trefriw Communities are too diverse, with similarly diverse interests, to be fairly represented by a single Community Council
- ... Residents wish to keep the individuality of their respective Communities
- ... The two communities are insular and at present have little to do with one another
- ... The geographical distance between the two communities
- ... The uneven distribution of Community Councillor Seats, biased towards Trefriw, would lead to Dolgarrog being underrepresented and the interests of Dolgarrog Community being overlooked
- ... A larger Community Council could result in increased bureaucracy/ administrative procedures which could slow down the "vital work of individual villages", having an increasingly detrimental effect of those villages already on the outskirts of the current council layout

Residents Dolgarrog - 16 representations were received from the general residents of Dolgarrog, again all of which were against the Commission's proposals. The following were the most important point to note:

- ... Dolgarrog and Trefriw Communities presently have fully functioning Community Councils which would not be benefited by an amalgamation
- ... The mortgage for Canolfan Porthlwyd (Community Centre) is paid for from the Dolgarrog precept. There is no guarantee that this would continue under the proposed merger, and could mean that Dolgarrog would lose a vital community resource
- ... The redevelopment of the aluminium works will result in regeneration and it is of importance that Dolgarrog retains its Community Council in order that the redevelopment is an asset to the village
- ... The residents of Dolgarrog are predominantly English speaking, whereas those in Trefriw tend to speak Welsh. This was highlighted in a previous representation as the two communities currently conduct their Council Meetings in different languages, those in Trefriw Welsh and those in Dolgarrog English
- ... Again the bias of Council Seats toward Trefriw was raised as leading to Dolgarrog being underrepresented in Council matters
- ... Dolgarrog has an vibrant and varied social scene which could suffer as a result of the merger due to Dolgarrog losing its individuality and identity
- ... A merger between Dolgarrog and Tal-y-Bont would be preferred as they are geographically closer and also share some of their amenities i.e. Dolgarrog School

9 Residents of Trefriw, pro-forma of Type 1 wrote to object to the Commission's proposals to merge the communities of Trefriw and Dolgarrog stating that the two communities have distinct and separate identities and retaining individual councils will maintain these identities. They also noted that due to foreseen increases in Dolgarrog population then this would lead to changes in the balance sheets on the proposed joint

Community Council. Finally the pro-forma states that Trefriw has a full complement of Councillors, negating the Commissions main reason for merging the communities.

69 Residents of Trefriw, pro-forma of Type 2 wrote to strongly oppose the Commission's proposals to merge the communities of Trefriw and Dolgarrog stating that the communities are very different and that the merger could cause a conflict of interest. The letter also noted that both communities had full complements of Councillors on their Community Councils.

Petition signed by 41 residents of Trefriw - was handed to the Deputy Secretary when attending a meeting of the Trefriw Community Council 22/10/08. The petition was titled "We, the undersigned wish to object to the proposed amalgamation of Trefriw & Dolgarrog Community Councils".

Petition signed by 223 residents of Dolgarrog - the petition was titled "We, the undersigned, wish to remain as an independent community Council and be known as DOLGARROG COMMUNITY COUNCIL".