

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES



Comisiwn Ffiniau
Llywodraeth Leol
i Gymru



Local Government
Boundary Commission
for Wales

**REVIEW OF COMMUNITY BOUNDARIES OF
CLYDACH AND BIRCHGROVE IN THE CITY AND
COUNTY OF SWANSEA**

REPORT AND PROPOSALS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

REVIEW OF COMMUNITY BOUNDARIES OF CLYDACH AND BIRCHGROVE IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA REPORT AND PROPOSALS

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*The Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales
Caradog House*

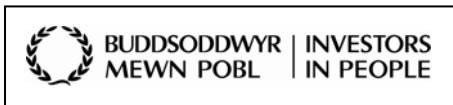
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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 We the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales have completed the review of the Communities of Birchgrove and Clydach in the City and County of Swansea as directed by you in your Direction to us dated 1 March 2011 (Appendix 1).

2. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 2.1 We propose that the boundary between the Communities of Birchgrove and Clydach remain unchanged.

3. SCOPE AND OBJECT OF THE REVIEW

- 3.1 We previously reviewed this area as part of our review of community boundaries in the City and County of Swansea which we completed in February 2010. In our Draft Proposals Report for that review we proposed that the boundary between the Communities of Birchgrove and Clydach be realigned to include the whole of the village of Glais within the Community of Birchgrove, it being our view that the existing boundary, which divides the village of Glais, represented an anomaly which needed to be rectified. However, following representations, our Final Proposals Report proposed that the whole of Glais village be included within the Community of Clydach.
- 3.2 Following consideration of our Final Proposals Report the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government decided to refer back to us the proposals in respect of the village of Glais. The Minister then issued a direction to us dated 1 March 2011 to conduct a further review of the Communities of Clydach and Birchgrove in the City and County of Swansea and to make proposals with respect to the area reviewed (Appendix 1). The review is being conducted under the provisions of Section 56(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the Act).

Procedure

- 3.3 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 8 April 2011 to Clydach Community Council in the City and County of Swansea and the City and County of Swansea Council 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 a local newspaper circulating in the area. We also arranged with Electoral Reform Services Limited to issue ballot papers and a covering letter to the electors within the village of Glais which is the area affected. Notification of the start of the review and the closing date for representations to be made (11 May 2011) was also given on our web site.

4. REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED PRIOR TO PROPOSALS

- 4.1 We received from a member of the public copies of the representations sent to the Welsh Government following the publication of the Final Proposals Report, which included a petition in respect of Glais Village. We also received representations from 1 local councillor and 3 local residents. A summary of these representations can be found at Appendix 3.

5. BALLOT OF ELECTORS

- 5.1 We considered that the electors within the village of Glais should be given the opportunity to express their wishes about the future of their village. In order to gauge the view of the electorate it was decided to conduct a postal ballot to ask the electors what their preferred option was. The results of the ballot can be seen in detail at Appendix 2.
- 5.2 The ballot of electors was carried out during April / May 2011 by Electoral Reform Services Limited on our behalf.

The questions asked:

What arrangement do you wish for the community boundaries for the village of Glais

- The communities to remain as they are with no change to community boundaries.
 - The whole of Glais to be included in the Community of Birchgrove.
 - The whole of Glais to be included in the Community of Clydach.
 - The whole of Glais to form a separate community.
- 5.3 As there are four possible outcomes and in order to allow electors to select more than one option, the ballot was conducted using the single transferable vote electoral system. Those balloted were the electors in that part of Glais which is in the Community of Birchgrove and the electors in that part of Glais which is in the Community of Clydach. The results of the ballot have been considered separately for each area and added together to produce an overall result. A description of the single transferable vote electoral system can be seen Appendix 4.

Community of Birchgrove

5.4

Number of eligible voters:	679
Total number of votes cast:	383
Turnout:	56%
Number of votes found to be invalid:	0

Result

5.5 The following arrangement was the most preferred:-

For the communities to remain as they are with no change to community boundaries with 197 votes (51%).

Community of Clydach

5.6

Number of eligible voters:	282
Total number of votes cast:	155
Turnout:	55%
Number of votes found to be invalid:	0
Total number of valid votes to be counted:	155

Result

5.7 The following arrangement was the most preferred:-

For the whole of Glais to form a separate community with 85 votes (55%).

Overall

5.8

Number of eligible voters:	961
Total number of votes cast:	538
Turnout:	56%
Number of votes found to be invalid:	0
Total number of valid votes to be counted:	538

Result

5.9 The following arrangement was the most preferred:-

For the communities to remain as they are with no change to community boundaries with 326 votes (60%).

6. ASSESSMENT

Birchgrove

- 6.1 We considered the result of the ballot of Glais electors within the Community of Birchgrove and the representations received. There was a sufficient majority from the 383 electors who returned their ballot papers that a second stage allocation of votes under the single transferable vote system was not required. The result for the area was for the communities to remain as they are with no change to community boundaries with 197 votes (51%). The next most popular arrangement was for the whole of Glais to be included in the Community of Birchgrove with 102 votes (27%).
- 6.2 We note that this result is consistent with the representations previously received by us on the 18th March 2011 from residents in the Community of Birchgrove and the petition supporting the inclusion of the whole of the village of Glais within the Community of Birchgrove that was sent to the Welsh Government following the publication of our previous Final Proposals Report.

Clydach

- 6.3 We considered the result of the ballot of Glais electors within the Glais Ward of the Community of Clydach and the representations received. The first stage of the ballot resulted in the arrangement for the whole of Glais to form a separate community being the most popular with 76 votes (49%) of the total 155 electors who returned their ballot papers. The arrangement for the whole of Glais to be included in the Community of Birchgrove was the least popular, polling 19 votes (12%). There was however, not a large enough majority to prevent a second stage being required. The second stage of the ballot resulted in the arrangement for the whole of Glais to form a separate community remaining the most popular with 85 votes (55%) with the second most popular arrangement being for the communities to remain as they are with 38 votes (25%).

Combined ballot results

- 6.4 When we examined the combined results of the ballot, three stages were required to determine the overall first choice arrangement and resulted in only two of the four arrangements having any votes. The highest polling arrangement was for the communities to remain as they are with no change to community boundaries with 326 votes (60%). The other arrangement was for the whole of Glais to form a separate community with 171 votes (32%). Twenty-nine votes (8%) were non-transferable as their preferences had been exhausted.
- 6.5 Councillor Dennis James wrote that it appeared that the overwhelming desire of the electorate was either for unification of the village or for the village to remain as it is at present and that to overcome this anomaly it was essential that the original petition together with all previous representations and the decision of Swansea City Council of August 2010 be taken into account. The Councillor also supported the villagers in their campaign to remain separate from Clydach. A Clydach resident

wrote that Glais must be reunited as a whole within the Community of Birchgrove and the electoral division of Llansamlet. A Glais resident wrote that it was their democratic wish to unite the whole of the village of Glais within the boundaries of the Llansamlet electoral division. We also received a representation from another Glais resident who requested that the communities remain as they are.

6.6 We have considered the results of the ballot, the representations to the final proposals and other representations received. The combined result of the ballot is clear that there is no majority view for the whole of the village of Glais to be combined within the Community of Birchgrove or the Community of Clydach. The ballot results for Clydach show that there is little popular support within that community for the village to be united within the Community of Birchgrove and we had taken this into consideration when making our decision which we believe should be broadly supported between the two existing communities. There is no strong evidence to contradict this and no overwhelming evidence that it is in the interests of effective and convenient local government to combine the village of Glais within the Community of Birchgrove or Clydach at this time.

6.7 In conclusion, having received no evidence to outweigh the wishes of the electorate, we believe that it is in the interests of effective and convenient local government that the boundaries of the Communities of Birchgrove and Clydach should remain unchanged.

7. PROPOSALS

7.1 Having considered all of the evidence available to us we propose that in the interests of effective and convenient local government the boundaries of the Communities of Birchgrove and Clydach should remain unchanged.

8. CONSEQUENTIAL ARRANGEMENTS

8.1 As we have proposed no change to the boundary of the Communities of Birchgrove and Clydach, there are no consequential arrangements.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

9.1 We wish to express our gratitude to Swansea City and County Council for their assistance 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 the boundary between the Communities of Birchgrove and Clydach in the City and County of Swansea and submitted our recommendation to the Welsh Government, we have fulfilled our statutory obligation under the Act.

- 10.2 It now falls to the Welsh Government, if it thinks fit, to give effect to this proposal either as submitted by the Commission or with modifications, and if the Welsh Government decides to give effect to this proposal with modifications, it may 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 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 Government. Representations should be addressed to:

Scrutiny, Democracy and Participation Team
Democracy, Ethics and Partnership Division
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Mr M CALLER CBE (Chairman)

Mr S BLAIR CBE (Member)

Mr O WATKIN OBE DL (Member)

Mr S HALSALL (Acting Secretary)

September 2011

Carl Sargeant AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth
Leol
Minister for Social Justice and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref: SF/CS/0063/11

Mr Paul Wood
Chair, Local Government
Boundary Commission for Wales
Caradog House
1-6 St Andrews Place
Cardiff CF10 3BE

1 March 2011

Dear Paul

Proposed Boundary Change at Glais

I have considered the Commission's recommendations following the review of community boundaries in the City and County of Swansea and, in the main, I am able to agree your recommendations except for the proposals concerning the village of Glais. Before proceeding with an Order to give effect to the recommendations in your report except for those concerning the boundaries of the communities of Clydach and Birchgrove, I enclose a new Direction instructing the Commission to look again at this area and to submit further proposals.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Carl Sargeant'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Carl Sargeant AM/AC

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WELSH MINISTERS

**Local Government Act 1972 Part
IV**

**DIRECTION TO THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY
COMMISSION FOR WALES
2011**

**Review of Communities in the City
and County of Swansea**

The Welsh Ministers give the following Direction to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales in exercise of the powers conferred on the Secretary of State by section 58(3) of the Local Government Act 1972(1) and now vested in them(2).

1. In this Direction:

“the Commission” (“y *Comisiwn*”) means the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales.

2. The Welsh Ministers direct the Commission to conduct a further review of the communities of Clydach and Birchgrove in the City and County of Swansea and to make proposals with respect to the area reviewed.

3. The Commission is directed to submit their revised review and proposals no later than 30 June 2011.

Carl Sargeant

Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, one of the Welsh Ministers

Date

(1) 1972 c.70.

(2) The functions of the Secretary of State under section 58 of the Local Government Act 1972 were transferred, so far as exercisable in relation to Wales, to the National Assembly for Wales by the National Assembly for Wales (Transfer of Functions) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/672). By virtue of section 162 of and paragraph 30 of Schedule 11 to, the Government of Wales Act 2006 (c.32) those functions are exercisable by the Welsh Ministers.

BALLOT RESULT**Arrangements for the village of Glais - Birchgrove**

Arrangements	First Stage
For the communities to remain as they are with no change to community boundaries	197
For the whole of Glais to be included in the Community of Birchgrove	102
For the whole of Glais to be included in the Community of Clydach	11
For the whole of Glais to form a separate community	73
Non-transferable (preferences exhausted)	
Total	383

Arrangements for the village of Glais - Clydach

Arrangements	First Stage	2 nd Stage	
		Exclusion of: Arrangement 2	
For the communities to remain as they are with no change to community boundaries	35	3	38
For the whole of Glais to be included in the Community of Birchgrove	19	-19	0
For the whole of Glais to be included in the Community of Clydach	25	2	27
For the whole of Glais to form a separate community	76	9	85
Non-transferable (preferences exhausted)		5	5
Total	155		155

Arrangements for the village of Glais - Overall

Arrangements	First Stage	2 nd Stage		3 rd Stage	
		Exclusion of: Arrangement 3		Exclusion of: Arrangement 2	
For the communities to remain as they are with no change to community boundaries	232	18	250	76	326
For the whole of Glais to be included in the Community of Birchgrove	121	2	123	-123	0
For the whole of Glais to be included in the Community of Clydach	36	-36	0		0
For the whole of Glais to form a separate community	149	4	153	18	171
Non-transferable (preferences exhausted)		12	12	29	41
Total	538		538		538

SUMMARY OF INITIAL REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED FOR THE COMMUNITY REVIEW OF CLYDACH AND BIRCHGROVE FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

Representations sent to the Democracy Team Following the publication of the Final Report and provided to a member of the public under the Freedom of Information Act

City and County of Swansea, (2008 letter to Commission) wrote that the Glais Polling District, Llansamlet Community, Llansamlet Electoral Division be transferred to the Clydach Community, Clydach Electoral Division.

Clydach Community Council wrote that it was in complete agreement that the entire village of Glais be included in the Community of Clydach.

Sian James MP wrote regarding her concern with Glais being transferred as a whole into Clydach and that she had come under immense pressure from Glais constituents to write regarding the matter. An objection was raised to the proposal and a call made for a referendum.

Val Lloyd AM – Swansea East wrote to strongly object to the whole of the village of Glais being included in the Community of Clydach and that since the publication of the Final Report had received many calls from Glais residents objecting to the proposal that their village be in the Community of Clydach.

Councillor Ryland Doyle wrote to oppose the moving of part of Glais currently in the Llansamlet electoral division in to the Community of Clydach and called for a referendum.

Councillor Dennis James wrote to oppose the proposal and support the democratic rights of the people of Glais to remain within the Llansamlet electoral division.

Councillor Penny Matthews wrote that the proposal to move Glais in to the Community of Clydach did not have a mandate from the electors of Glais and called for a referendum.

A Glais Resident forwarded a copy of the petition requesting the unification of Glais as one village affiliated to the Community of Birchgrove, which was sent to the Welsh Assembly Government following the publication of the Final Report for the Community Review of the City and County of Swansea, together with copies of representations received, which were obtained under the freedom of information act from WAG.

15 Glais Residents wrote using a template letter to request uniting the village of Glais within the Community of Birchgrove.

Representations received following the publication of the Public Notice

Councillor Dennis James wrote it appeared that the overwhelming desire was either for unification of the village or for the village to remain as it is at present. Therefore in order to overcome this anomaly it was essential that the original petition together with all previous representations and the Swansea City Councils decision of August 2010 on the subject be taken into account.

The Councillor supported the villagers in their campaign to remain separate from Clydach and trusted that the Commission would take this view into account when making their deliberations.

A Clydach Resident wrote that Glais must be reunited, glued and stitched as a whole, within the Community of Birchgrove and the electoral division of Llansamlet.

A Glais Resident wrote that it was their democratic wish to unite the whole of the village of Glais within the boundaries of the Llansamlet electoral division.

A Glais Resident wrote to request that the communities remain as they are, with no change to community boundaries.

REGULATIONS OF THE SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTE

*This method is commonly called
Preferential Voting or the Alternative Vote.*

1. METHOD OF VOTING

- 1) Each voter shall have one transferable vote.
- 2) A voter in recording his/her vote on a printed voting paper:
 - i. must place on his/her voting paper the figure 1 opposite the arrangement for whom he/she votes;
 - ii. may indicate the order of his/her preference for as many other arrangements as he/she pleases by placing against them the figures 2, 3, 4

2. SORTING THE PAPERS

- 1) The papers are examined sorted into parcels according to the first preference recorded for each arrangement, rejecting any that are invalid.

3. COUNTING THE PAPERS

- 1) The papers are counted in each such parcel and a credit given to each arrangement with a number of votes equal to the number of valid papers on which a first preference has been recorded for that arrangement.
- 2) If the vote for any one arrangement equals or exceeds the votes of all the other arrangements combined, that arrangement shall be declared the winner.
- 3)
 - i. If not, the two or more arrangements with the least votes shall be excluded if the total vote of such two or more arrangements does not exceed the vote of the arrangement next above; otherwise the arrangement having the fewest votes shall be excluded.
 - ii. The papers of the excluded arrangement shall be transferred to whichever of the continuing arrangements is marked by that voter as his/her next available preference, and the votes thus transferred shall be added to the first-preference votes of those arrangements.
 - iii. Any paper on which no further preference is marked shall be set aside as non-transferable and the total of such papers shall be recorded.
 - iv. This process shall be continued until the vote for one arrangement exceeds or equals the votes for all other continuing arrangements combined, and that arrangement shall then be declared the winner.

4. TIES

- 1) If, when an arrangement has to be excluded, two or more arrangements have each the same number of votes and are lowest on the poll, the arrangement with the lowest number of votes at the earliest stage in the count, at which the arrangement in question had an unequal number of votes, shall be excluded.
- 2) If two or more arrangements are still equal and lowest, the organisation conducting the ballot shall decide which shall be excluded.

5. DEFINITIONS

- 1) The expression 'first preference' means the figure 1 standing alone opposite an arrangement.
- 2) The expression 'valid voting paper' means a voting paper on which a first or only preference is unambiguously expressed.
- 3) The expression 'invalid voting paper' means a voting paper on which no first or only preference is expressed, or on which any first preference is void for uncertainty.
- 4) The expression 'continuing arrangement' means any arrangement not yet excluded.
- 5) The expression 'next available preference' means a second or subsequent preference recorded in consecutive numerical order for a continuing arrangement, passing over earlier preferences for arrangements already excluded.
- 6) The expression 'transferable paper' means a voting paper on which a next available preference is unambiguously expressed.
- 7) The expression 'non-transferable paper' means a voting paper on which no next available preference for a continuing arrangement is expressed, or on which any next available preference is void for uncertainty.