

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 THE VALE OF
GLAMORGAN**

DRAFT PROPOSALS

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DRAFT PROPOSALS

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 We the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales (the Commission) have completed the first stage of the review of community boundaries in the County Borough of the Vale of Glamorgan as directed by the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government in his Direction to us dated 31 March 2008 (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 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).
- 1.3 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 1 May 2008 to The Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council, the Community Councils of Barry, Colwinston, Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Dinas Powys, Ewenny, Llancafán, Llandough, Llandow, Llanfair, Llangan, Llanmaes, Llantwit Major, Michaelston, Penarth, Pendoylan, Penllyn, Peterston-super-Ely, St. Athan, St. Bride's Major, St Donats, St. Georges and St. Bride's-super-Ely, St. Nicholas and Bonvilston, Sully, Wenvoe, Wick, and Welsh St. Donats, the Member of Parliament for the local constituency, 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 (4 July 2008) was given on the web site of the Commission.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 We propose that:
- the boundary between the Communities of Llandough and Michaelston in the area of the property named Croft Mawr be realigned to follow the boundary shown in green on the map at Appendix 3;
 - the boundary between the Communities of Llanmaes and Llantwit Major in the area of the B4265 be realigned to follow the boundary shown in green on the map at Appendix 4;
 - the boundary between the Communities of Penarth and Sully in the area of Whitcliffe Drive be realigned to follow the boundary shown in green on the map at Appendix 5; and
 - the boundary between the Communities of Penarth and Sully in the area of Merlin Close and Brockhill Way be realigned to follow the boundary shown in green on the map at Appendix 5.
- 2.2 The Commission considers that the proposal to divide the existing Community of St Bride's Major, and constitute a separate community coterminous with the existing ward of Ogmore by Sea to have merit, but would welcome further representations before reaching a final decision.

- 2.3 The Commission suggests that the Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council consider a review of the community wards for Barry Community Council in accordance with section 57(4) of the Act.

3. REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED PRIOR TO THE DRAFT PROPOSALS

- 3.1 We received representations from Barry Town Council, Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council, Ewenny Community Council, Llandough Community Council, Llangan Community Council, Llanmaes Community Council, Llantwit Major Town Council, Penarth Town Council, Pendoylan Community Council, Penllyn Community Council, St. Athan Community Council, Wenvoe Community Council and Wick Community Council; 3 Councillors; and 316 other interested bodies and residents. We considered all of these representations carefully before we formulated our proposals. Details of all of these representations can be found at Appendix 2.

4. ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 We have considered suggested changes to community boundaries in the following areas: Llandough and Michaelston, Llanmaes and Llantwit Major, Penarth and Sully, Pendoylan and Welsh St. Donats, Wick with St Brides Major and St Donats, and St. Brides Major wards of Ogmores-by-Sea and St. Brides Major.

Llandough and Michaelston

- 4.2 We have noted Llandough Community Council's suggestion that the property known as Croft Mawr would be more appropriately included within another Community area. After conducting a site visit it was confirmed that the only access to this property is via the Community of Michaelston and it appeared that the property was remote from settlement areas within Llandough. We consider therefore that this change to the boundary is desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government and propose a realignment of the boundary to move the property from Llandough into Michaelston (map at Appendix 3).

Llanmaes and Llantwit Major

- 4.3 We noted the suggestion from Llanmaes Community Council to realign the boundary between their Community and that of Llantwit Major to follow the B4265 road at Boverton. We considered that this proposal had merit in that this busy road provides an effective boundary between the two community areas. We did notice however, after conducting a site visit, that the Council's suggested boundary omitted two properties to the south west of Llanmaes. We therefore propose to extend the boundary further west along the B4265 to include these two properties within the Community of Llanmaes. We consider this change to the boundary to be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government and propose a change to the boundary between the Communities of Llanmaes and Llantwit major as shown on the map at Appendix 4.

Llantwit Major

- 4.4 Consideration was given to Llantwit Major Town Council's request to increase the number of Councillors in the Council's Boverton Ward. Such a change could only be considered as part of this review as a consequence of a change to the Community boundary involving the Boverton Ward. It is correct that the change proposed by Llanmaes Community Council (4.3) involved a change to part of the boundary of Boverton Ward of the Community of Llantwit Major, and we are entitled to propose changes to electoral arrangements consequent upon that change (and we consider doing so at paragraphs 6.7 and 6.11 below - no change is proposed), but the change to electoral arrangements proposed by Llantwit Major which is not consequential upon any such boundary change is not within our powers to consider in the context of the Review.

Penarth and Sully

- 4.5 We considered the suggestion made by Penarth Town Council that the boundary between their Community and the Community of Sully be realigned to include properties in Whitcliffe Drive, currently in the Lavernock Ward of Sully within the Plymouth Ward of Penarth. We observed that access to said properties in Whitcliffe Drive is made solely from Penarth and propose that the area of Whitcliffe Drive be included within the boundary of the Community of Penarth (map at Appendix 5).
- 4.6 We also noted a further anomaly in the boundary between the Communities of Sully and Penarth in the area of Merlin Close and Brockhill way. We propose that this anomaly be rectified to take the boundary to the delineated fencing to the rear of the properties (map at Appendix 5).

Pendoylan and Welsh St Donats

- 4.7 We noted the suggestion made by Pendoylan Community Council to move two properties from Welsh St Donats into Pendoylan. The suggested boundary (map at Appendix 6) would follow the natural forestry boundary around the Warren Farm area. A site visit was made to the area which confirmed that access to Warren Farm was through Pendoylan. The suggested boundary appeared to be clearly defined in that it followed field boundaries although it did not appear to give any advantage in this respect over the current boundary. From the evidence we have considered at this stage of the review, we are of the view that the two properties have no obvious greater association with Pendoylan than with St Donats, but we would welcome further representations on the subject showing how it would be in the interests of effective and convenient local government for such a change to be made.

St Athan

- 4.8 We considered the suggestion from St Athan Community Council, that changes should be made to the electoral arrangements of their community to reduce the

number of Councillors in the St Athan Ward by two and increase the number of Councillors in Flemingston Ward by two to better reflect the changes in the electorate in each ward. Whilst there appears to us to be merit in reviewing the electoral arrangements of the community we are unable to do so as part of this review.

- 4.9 This review is being carried out under Section 56 of the Act which allows us to make proposals for the electoral arrangements of a community that are consequential on a change to the community boundary. We have received no suggestions for a change to the boundary of the St Athan Community. We therefore make no proposals for changes to the electoral arrangements for the Community of St Athan at this stage.

St Bride's Major

- 4.10 We noted the many representations received in support of the suggestion that the Ogmores-by-Sea Ward of the Community of St Bride's Major should form a Community in its own right. We also noted the suggestion that the area of this new Community be extended to include the Southerndown area of the St Bride's Major Ward. A map showing both the existing community ward boundary and the suggested community boundary can be found at Appendix 7.
- 4.11 We considered the number of electors in both the suggested new communities and noted that that other rural communities existed within The Vale of Glamorgan with lower numbers of electors. We have also considered the level of public support for an Ogmores-by-Sea community that was demonstrated in the representations we have received at this stage. In view of the cogent and numerous representations in support of this proposal to constitute a new Community and in all the circumstances, the Commission is satisfied that the proposal has merit, but would welcome further representations.
- 4.12 We noted the suggestion that the area of the proposed Ogmores-by-Sea Community be extended to include the area of Southerndown. We noted however that the existing warding arrangements of the Community of St. Bride's Major are of long standing and we are unaware of suggestions that have arisen in respect of the boundary between the two wards since their formation in 1982. We were not persuaded at this stage therefore that it would be in the interests of effective and convenient local government to extend the proposed Ogmores-by-Sea Community to include the area of Southerndown. We welcome comments and representations on this matter in particular from residents of the Southerndown area and from residents of the whole of the existing St. Bride's Community and other interested parties in respect of the general proposal to form two new communities. The electoral arrangements of the two new communities are considered at 6.9 and 6.10 below.

Wenvoe

- 4.13 We considered the suggestion from Wenvoe Community Council that changes should be made to the electoral arrangements of their community to create a new ward at Parc y Gwenfo as the Council considered that the population justified the

change. Whilst there appears to us to be merit in reviewing the electoral arrangements of the community we are unable to do so as part of this review.

- 4.14 This review is being carried out under Section 56 of the Act which allows us to make proposals for the electoral arrangements of a community that are consequential on a change to the community boundary. We have received no suggestions for a change to the boundary of the Wenvoe Community. We therefore make no proposals for changes to the electoral arrangements for the Community of Wenvoe at this stage.

Wick

- 4.15 We considered the suggestion from Wick Community Council for changes to their boundaries with Community of St Bride's Major and with the Community of St Donats. The change suggested to the boundary between Wick and St Bride's Major was to include Sealand Farm and two footpaths leading from Heol Las to the cliff tops within the Community of Wick. The change suggested to the boundary between Wick and St Donats was to include East Monkton Farm and West Monkton Farm within the Community of Wick. A map showing the area of the Community of Wick can be found at Appendix 8.
- 4.16 We noted that the two footpaths were already either within or, in part, formed the boundary of the Community of Wick and therefore no realignment of the boundary was necessary. In respect of Sealand Farm it was considered that although access to the Farm was through Wick the extent of the surrounding land belonging to the Farm was not known and an appropriate alternative boundary could not be identified. As the existing boundary is clearly defined we do not consider that the suggested change to the boundary between the Communities of Wick and St Bride's Major to be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government. In respect of East and West Monkton Farms it was also considered that as the extent of the surrounding land belonging to the Farms had not been identified, it was not possible to identify an appropriate alternative boundary. As the existing boundary is also clearly defined in this area we do not consider that the suggested change to the boundary between the Communities of Wick and St Donats to be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government. We therefore make no proposals, at this stage, for changes to the boundary of the Community of Wick, but the Commission will gladly give the matter further consideration in light of any further representations and information.

Barry

- 4.17 During the investigations we made as part of this review we noted an apparent anomaly in the boundary between the Baruc and Castleland Wards of the Community of Barry. The boundary between these two wards goes through a number of dockside properties (Appendix 9). This review is being carried out under Section 56 of the Act which allows us to make proposals for the electoral arrangements (which would include an alteration to ward boundaries) of a community that are consequential on a change to the community boundary. We have received no suggestions for a change to the boundary of the Barry Community. We therefore make no proposals for changes to the ward boundaries for the Community of Barry at this stage. However, we do propose that the Vale of

Glamorgan County Borough Council consider a review of the community wards for Barry Community Council.

Ewenny

- 4.18 We noted the correspondence from Ewenny Community Council and a resident of Ewenny suggesting changes to the boundary between the County Borough of The Vale of Glamorgan and the County Borough of Bridgend. This review is a review of community boundaries in the County Borough of the Vale of Glamorgan as directed by the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government and we are of the view that consideration of changes to the boundary of the principal council (County and County Borough) areas would be beyond the remit of this current review. We would, as we do in all cases, consider requests to undertake reviews of the boundaries between principal council areas but we note that this particular area was reviewed by us as recently as 1999 and as far as we are aware there have been no significant developments in the area in the interim.

5. PROPOSAL

- 5.1 Having considered the evidence available to us at this stage of our review we propose that the boundaries of the Communities of Llandough, Llanmaes, Llantwit Major, Michaelston, Penarth and Sully and should be realigned in the area under review to follow the boundaries shown in green on the maps at Appendices 3, 4, and 5.
- 5.2 Detailed maps to a larger scale showing the proposed new boundaries can be inspected at the offices of The Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council and at the office of the Commission in Cardiff.
- 5.3 This report details our draft proposals for change to the community boundaries in the County Borough of The Vale of Glamorgan and we would welcome comments on the proposals.

6. CONSEQUENTIAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 6.1 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. We would also welcome comments on this aspect of our report. The electoral statistics used in this report were provided by The Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council.

Community Council Electoral Arrangements

6.2 The Community of Llandough is not warded and currently has 1,474 electors represented by 10 Councillors (147 electors per Councillor).

6.3 The Community of Michaelston is currently divided, for Community electoral purposes, into the community wards of Michaelston and Leckwith. The following table shows the number of electors and councillors for each ward.

Community	Ward	Electors	Councillors	E/C*
Michaelston	Michaelston	178	5	36
	Leckwith	75	2	38
		253	7	36

* Electors per Councillor

6.4 Under our proposals the number of electors in the Community of Llandough will decrease by 3 to 1,471 and the number of electors in Community of Michaelston will increase by 3 to 256.

6.5 The Community of Llanmaes is not warded and currently has 348 electors represented by 7 Councillors (50 electors per Councillor).

6.6 The Community of Llantwit Major is currently divided, for Community electoral purposes, into the community wards of Boverton, North, South East and West. The following table shows the number of electors and councillors for each ward.

Community	Ward	Electors	Councillors	E/C*
Llantwit Major	Boverton	2,159	3	720
	North	2,525	5	505
	South East	1,455	4	364
	West	957	3	319
		7,096	15	473

6.7 Under our proposals the number of electors in the Community of Llantwit Major will decrease by 3 to 7,093 and the number of electors in the Community of Llanmaes will increase by 3 to 351.

6.8 The Community of Penarth is currently divided, for Community electoral purposes, into the community wards of Cornerswell, Plymouth, St Augustine's and Stanwell. The following table shows the number of electors and councillors for each ward.

Community	Ward	Electors	Councillors	E/C*
Penarth	Cornerswell	3,946	4	987
	Plymouth	4,432	4	1,108
	St Augustine's	4,479	5	896
	Stanwell	3,189	3	1,063
		16,046	16	1,003

6.9 The Community of St. Bride's Major is currently divided, for Community electoral purposes, into the community wards of Ogmores-by-Sea and St. Bride's Major. The following table shows the number of electors and councillors for each ward.

Community	Ward	Electors	Councillors	E/C*
St. Bride's Major	Ogmore-by-Sea	786	5	157
	St. Bride's Major	826	6	138
		1,612	11	146

- 6.10 It is suggested that the Community of St. Bride's Major will be divided to form two new Communities, Ogmore-by-Sea and St. Bride's Major, both with community councils. In earlier reviews we have considered as a guide that the minimum practical size of community council is 7 members. We have noted that within the Vale of Glamorgan there currently exists a number of community councils, with smaller numbers of electors than the suggested communities, that have 7 Councillors. If we were to adopt the suggested change we would propose that the new Community of Ogmore-by-Sea with 786 electors has 7 councillors and that the new Community of St. Bride's Major with 826 electors also has 7 councillors.
- 6.11 The Community of Sully is currently divided, for Community electoral purposes, into the community wards of Lavernock and Sully. The following table shows the number of electors and councillors for each ward.

Community	Ward	Electors	Councillors	E/C*
Sully	Lavernock	756	1	756
	Sully	2,600	8	325
		3,356	9	373

- 6.12 Under our proposals the number of electors in the Community of Sully will decrease by 45 to 3,311 and the number of electors in the Community of Penarth will increase by 45 to 16,091.
- 6.13 Leaving aside the suggestion with regard to St Bride's Major, we are of the view that for all of the above Community Councils the changes to the number of electors as a consequence of the proposed boundary changes are not so significant as, at this time, to require either an increase or a decrease in the number of councillors representing each Community Council.

County Borough Council Electoral Arrangements

- 6.14 The Dinas Powys electoral division consists of the Communities of Dinas Powys and Michaelston and currently has 6,164 electors represented by 4 Councillors. The proposed change to the boundary between the Communities of Llandough and Michaelston would mean the number of electors in the Dinas Powys electoral division would increase to 6,167.
- 6.15 The Llantwit Major electoral division consists of the Communities of Llanmaes, Llantwit Major and St Donats and currently has 7,874 electors represented by 4 Councillors. The proposed change to the boundary between the Communities of Llanmaes and Llantwit Major would have no effect on the number of electors in the Llantwit Major electoral division.
- 6.16 The Plymouth electoral division consists of the Plymouth ward of the Community of Penarth and currently has 4,432 electors represented by 2 Councillors. The

proposed change to the boundary between the Communities of Penarth and Sully would mean the number of electors in the Plymouth electoral division would increase to 4,477.

- 6.17 We are of the view that for all of the above electoral divisions the changes to the number of electors as a consequence of the proposed boundary changes are not so significant as, at this time, to require either an increase or a decrease in the number of councillors representing each electoral division. During the next three years we are due to conduct a review of the electoral arrangements for all principal councils in Wales and we anticipate that we will receive directions from the Welsh Assembly Government to guide us in the conduct of the review. At that time we will look in detail at the electoral arrangements for Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council and will take into account any changes that arise from these proposed changes to community boundaries.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 We wish to express our gratitude The Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council and the Community Councils for their assistance and to all persons and bodies who made representations to us.

8. RESPONSES TO THIS REPORT

- 8.1 All observations on this draft report should be sent to:

The Secretary
Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales
Caradog House
1-6 St. Andrews Place
Cardiff CF10 3BE

not later than 17 April 2009.

9. THE NEXT STEPS

- 9.1 When we have considered the comments made to us in response to this draft report we shall submit our recommendations to the Welsh Assembly Government in the form of a report and proposals. It will then fall to the Welsh Assembly Government, if it thinks fit, to implement our recommendations either with or without modifications.

MR P J WOOD (Chair)

REV. HYWEL MEREDYDD DAVIES BD (Deputy Chair)

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)(THE
COUNTY BOROUGH OF THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN)
DIRECTION 2008**

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 The Vale of Glamorgan for the purpose of considering whether or not to make such proposals in relation to the areas 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 31/3/08

⁽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 Initial Representations – Vale of Glamorgan Community Review

Barry Town Council stated that it had no suggestions to put forward regarding changes to the boundaries between Barry and its adjoining communities of Dinas Powys, Rhoose, Sully and Wenvoe.

Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council advised the Commission that it had no suggested changes to put forward in relation to its boundaries with adjoining communities.

Ewenny Community Council proposed that the boundary between Ewenny Community Council and the County Borough of Bridgend currently being the Ewenny River be moved to follow the Vale Railway line. At present Ewenny village is cut in two as the Pottery Hill area of Ewenny road falls within the County Borough of Bridgend. Moving the boundary as proposed would enable the whole village of Ewenny, together with Heronston to the south of the railway line to fall within the Ewenny Community Council area.

Llandough Community Council proposed that the property known as Croft Mawr located on Penyturpike Road would be better located in the Dinas Powys or Leckwith/Michaelston Community Council area.

Llangan Community Council is perfectly satisfied with the boundaries as they already are.

Llanmaes Community Council considered that the boundary between Llanmaes and Llantwit Major was inappropriate as it is historical and outdated. The Council proposed the following change:

- Part of the present boundary, which is a stream, should be extended to the B4265 as indicated by a green line on the attached map. The B4265 is the Llantwit Major By-Pass and it is the Community Council's belief that the road would form a more natural boundary. The Council proposed that the boundary should be extended to the traffic lights at the junction to the entrance to Llanmaes village and then follow the road to the junction with Eglwys Brewis Road. The proposed change would take three properties from Llantwit Major Town Council area into Llanmaes Community Council area.

Llantwit Major Town Council wished to retain the existing boundaries but asked that consideration be given for an increase in Town Council representation in Boverton ward due to an increase in residents.

Penarth Town Council suggested the following to rectify boundary anomalies:

- Whitcliffe Drive, numbers 1 – 14 lie with Penarth (to the old fence line that bordered the field that used to be Penarth's boundary), whilst numbers 16 upwards lie in Sully and Lavernock. This being confusing, especially for residents.

- Cosmeston Lakes Country Park. The current boundary crosses part of the Eastern Lake and it would make more sense for the whole of the park boundary to lie within Penarth. No voters would be affected by such changes.
- There are two properties in Sully Road - Inglenook and Glan Hafren that fall within the Penarth boundary but raise the question whether they fall within the correct ward. The properties currently fall within the Cornerswell ward; however the Council suggest they should be placed in either Stanwell ward or Plymouth ward.

Pendoylan Community Council stated that there is an anomaly in the current Pendoylan / Welsh St Donats boundary at Warren Mill. One side of the road is in the Parish of Pendoylan and two properties on the other side of the road, namely Barn Farm and Gorllwyn, are situated in the Parish of Welsh St Donats.

The two properties have Pendoylan addresses and post codes and are physically isolated from the village of Welsh St Donats. The adjacent forestry would be a more natural boundary between the two parishes than the road. The owners state that they belong to the community of Pendoylan rather than to Welsh St Donats. The Community Council supports the request for inclusion into Pendoylan. The Council proposed a new boundary marked in green on the attached map.

Penllyn Community Council concluded that no adjustment to the existing community boundaries were necessary.

St Athan Community Council considered amending Councillor representation to reduce the number of Councillors in the St Athan ward by two and increasing the number of Councillors in Flemingston by two to better reflect the changes in electorate in each ward. The Council stated it was aware that the amendment to Councillor numbers was beyond the Commissions remit, but wanted to ensure that its views were placed before the Commission.

Wenvoe Community Council recommended no change to its existing boundaries, but did request that consideration be given to creating a new ward at Parc y Gwenfo as it was considered that the population justified it.

Wick Community Council proposed several changes to the boundaries around Wick village. One suggestion is to include two footpaths leading from Heol Las to the cliff top and the stairway to the beach. They concluded that the boundary is currently intermittent and can be extended to a reasonable position. Secondly the site of Sealand Farm should be included within the Community as its only access is through the village of Wick. Finally the site of East Monkton and West Monkton farms should also be included within the Wick boundary on the grounds of close proximity.

Councillor Richard Bertin, Barry Court Electoral Division, Vale of Glamorgan Council, asked if consideration be given to moving Pearce Court in Barry from the Court ward to the Gibbonsdown ward as residents considered themselves part of Gibbonsdown and the only access to the road from was Gibbonsdown.

Councillor Chris Howell of Ogmored-by-Sea wrote requesting that the Commission give consideration to setting up a new Community Council area based on the existing ward of Ogmored-by-Sea. He stated that St Brides Major Community Council first raised the issue

in May 2004, but the Vale of Glamorgan Council was unable to fulfil their responsibilities under the Local Government Act 1972 to maintain effective and convenient local government. With the Commission now directly involved in the process he is confident that the wishes of a large majority of Ogmores-by-Sea residents will get a fair hearing. His arguments in favour of the proposed adjustments are as follows:

- St. Brides Major Community Council area is based on the old Parish boundary, which was set when Ogmores-by-sea was just a handful of properties along the coast. In the intervening years Ogmores-by-sea has grown to be the largest settlement in the area but has no independent voice in local government. Ogmores-by-Sea village now has over 900 residents compared to St. Brides Major's 600+ (Vale Council figures).
- The Vale Council and other authorities like the police and the Welsh Assembly Government, tend to see the existing community council area as one "community". On that basis there is a school, a playing field with sports pavilion, a village hall, a scout hall, a well-funded children's playground, 5 pubs, a tapas bar and 2 village shops. The reality is that the village community has only a village shop and a small tapas bar – all other community facilities have either been lost or have never been provided. There are many examples of how Ogmores-by-Sea loses out for lack of independent representation.
- Over the years, equipment in the children's playground in Ogmores-by-Sea has been removed to the point where there is only a swing remaining. When the Vale Council were approached regarding the issue they cited a "review of community facilities" they had conducted which showed our community as "well provided" with a new children's playground installed and maintained by the County Council. The fact that this is in St. Brides Major village some three miles away did not factor into their calculations – the "community" has its requisite number of children's playgrounds.
- In the last year illuminated speed warning signs have been erected in Wick, Corntown and St. Brides Major and these have been effective in reducing the speed of traffic through those villages. Ogmores-by-Sea residents have been complaining about speeding traffic through their village for many years but once again the "community" has had the "traffic calming" box ticked by the authorities without any benefit to Ogmores-by-Sea.
- One cannot really blame the authorities – they see "communities" on the political maps and share out limited resources accordingly but this situation has disadvantaged the community. For years residents have reported problems but little has been done to improve things. Noise and nuisance from car parks and dog mess and litter on the Commons increase year-on-year; during summer months the streets are clogged with parked cars; speeding vehicles remain a constant threat; sewage frequently pours onto the Common, and so on. The lives of many people in the village are affected by the lack of action, which stems from the lack of proper representation.
- With Ogmores-by-Sea earmarked for additional residential development in the new Vale Local Development Plan the imbalance in representation will be exacerbated in the next decade or so. Over 40 acres around the village have been proposed for

development which could result in 500+ extra houses in a village with almost no community facilities. Without a strong independent voice the community could be irrevocably changed without local people having a proper say in their own affairs.

- The existing Community Council has always been very traditional in its outlook. It has tended to take the view that St. Brides Major is the “heart” of the parish and that what is good for St. Brides and its church community is good for us all. For many years it has spent most of its time and money on maintaining and insuring property. It owns a burial ground, a church clock, a preaching cross, a war memorial, 13 bus shelters and 10 wayside seats. Many Ogmores-by-Sea residents believe that a modern Community Council should instead focus on the concerns of local residents and stand up for the rights and needs of the community it serves.
- In recent years there has been a great deal of interest in community council issues among Ogmores-by-Sea residents. In this year’s election, 8 candidates stood for the 5 available seats in the ward (for the second election in a row) but in St. Brides Major only four candidates stood for the 6 seats and were duly elected unopposed. This is indicative of the desire in Ogmores-by-Sea to get the representation it deserves.
- A new council based on the existing Ogmores-by-Sea ward boundary would be a viable size for a Community Council area. In terms of the number of electors the new council would be on a par with the remaining St. Brides Major area and be significantly larger than the neighbouring council areas in Wick, Ewenny and Corntown and would be one of the largest community council areas in the rural Vale. We would become an equal partner with our neighbours and would work together with them on issues in which we have common concerns. All four villages suffer to some degree as a result of the 1996 changes, which took us away from our traditional links with Bridgend and realigned us with Barry. There is a widely held perception that issues in the western end of the Vale do not get the priority that they deserve and that strengthening the area’s voice by adding another independent council to fight for our communities’ needs can only improve matters.
- In the May 2008 elections I stood as a candidate for St. Bride’s Major Community Council and my election address, delivered to every household in the ward, made my position of the issue of splitting the community council area very clear. I stated that I was in favour and that when the time came I would campaign for the change. In the elections I topped the poll. The announcement by the Boundary Commission of the community review coincided with a very busy time for me personally – another pressing community issue arose which took up all of my spare time – and I was only able to start campaigning a week ago. I have been amazed by the response. I was aware that people were generally dissatisfied with the current arrangements but had no idea that so many would be so quick to give their names in support of a new council for our community. I only managed to speak to around 60 people in person but only one of these was in favour of keeping the status quo. In areas of the village where individuals have gone out and spoken to their neighbours over 90% of the people approached have signed up in support of the idea. I have collected 245 letters of support for the proposition and I expect that you may have received a number by post and e-mail. There is clearly a massive majority of Ogmores-by-Sea residents in favour of the proposed changes in

community provision and my only regret is that circumstance meant I was not able to get round all the houses in the ward as I had planned.

- In recent days, a number of Southerndown residents have told me that they would favour being kept together with Ogmores-by-sea in the event of any new arrangements being implemented. Southerndown is, like Ogmores-by-Sea, a seaside village with many of the same problems. Summertime nuisance from visitors, speeding traffic, the lack of community facilities and the possibility of doubling in size under the new Vale Local Development Plan are among the issues we have in common. It could be argued that Southerndown has more community of interest with Ogmores-by-Sea than with St. Brides Major and that its needs would be better-served by joining with the former if any changes are brought about. I request that this idea also be examined by the Commission.
- Ogmores-by-Sea has for too long been a poor relation in local government affairs and I respectfully request that the Boundary Commission for Wales has due regard of the wishes of the majority of Ogmores-by-Sea residents and takes whatever steps are necessary to set up an independent Community Council for the area in order to provide more effective and convenient local government.

Councillor Alan Morgan of St Brides Major suggested that Ogmores-by-Sea would benefit from having its own Community Council or to institute an amendment to the number of Councillors it has to better represent the ward as it stands. His reasons for these suggestions are outlined below:

- The St Brides Major Community is divided into two wards. St Brides Major ward contains the villages of St Brides Major and Southerndown as well as the smaller settlements of Heol y Mynydd and Castle upon Alun; in total the ward has approximately 850 electors and is represented by 6 Community Councillors. Ogmores-by-Sea ward contains the village of Ogmores-by-Sea and the small hamlet known as Ogmores Village, there are approximately 820 electors represented by 5 Community Councillors.
- Despite being the largest settlement in the Community Council area the village of Ogmores-by-Sea is under represented on the Council. Also the village of Southerndown, despite being a significant settlement has no specific representation.
- I have taken a close interest in Community affairs for some time and it is apparent to me that the residents of St Brides Major and Ogmores-by-Sea regard themselves as having little in common. Essentially interaction between villages is minimal and largely restricted to Churchgoers and primary school pupils. In any meaningful sense the area cannot be regarded as a single community.
- This situation has serious consequences for the effective running of the Community Council. Members from one ward have tended to care little about issues affecting the other, regardless of the importance residents and members from the relevant ward place on the matter in hand. This has been a major contributory factor towards a history of discord, animosity and outright hostility between members of the Council over the last 5-6 years that has had meetings abandoned, 3 Clerks

resign, and numerous allegations made to the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales.

- Whilst this conflict has existed, the village of Southerndown has, in my opinion been largely ignored and simply treated as a kind of 'No Mans Land' between the villages of St Brides Major and Ogmores-by-Sea. Obviously no one has benefited from this situation, least of all the residents, regardless of their address.
- On a positive note the recent elections saw a number of Councillors stand down and to all intents and purposes a 'new' Council that has shown willingness to act together without the animosity of old now represents the area. However the underlying causes of the animosity remain, Ogmores-by-Sea and St Brides Major have little in common and Southerndown lacks any specific representation.

Chair of the Vale of Glamorgan Conservatives suggested the following changes:

- The establishment of an additional ward in Wenvoe Community Council based upon the polling district PA1 including Parc-y-Gwenfo, Brooklands Terrace and Cambrian Park. His reasoning is that there are approximately 380 electors at the location and a dedicated ward with 1 or 2 Councillors would guarantee representation on the Community Council. The Council could either be increased by the number of additional Councillors or increased to 12 with lesser numbers than now representing the main Wenvoe area, e.g.: 2 in St Lythams ward, 2 in PA1 ward, 8 in Wenvoe ward
- The area known as Pencoedtre or Pencoedtre Village to be established as a ward in its own right. Due to development in recent years it now has over 850 homes with more to follow, and is distinctly different to the Barry suburb of Cadoc ward and has its own sense of identity.

310 residents of Ogmores-by-Sea by individual pro-forma, suggested provision of a new Community Council to be set up for Ogmores-by-Sea based on the Ogmores-by-Sea ward of St. Brides Major Community Council. The pro-forma outlined the basis for their suggestion as follows:

- For years OBS residents have reported problems but little has been done to improve things. Noise and nuisance from car parks and dog mess and litter on the Commons increase year on year; during summer months our streets are clogged with parked cars; speeding vehicles remain a constant threat; sewage frequently pours onto the Common, and so on.
- OBS now has over 900 residents compared to St Brides Major's 600+ (Vale Council figures) but since the 1970s we have lost 2 shops, 2 cafes and 4 pubs. The authorities tend to see the existing Community Council area as one 'community' but community facilities are concentrated in St Brides Major with only a village shop and small tapas bar left in OBS.
- The new Vale LDP has earmarked OBS for residential development with 40 acres around the village proposed for new dwellings. This could result in 500+ extra houses. We need a strong voice in these processes.

- For many years our Community Council has spent most of its time and money on maintaining and insuring property. It owns a burial ground, a church clock, a preaching cross, a war memorial, 13 bus shelters and 10 wayside seats. An independent council could focus on addressing the concerns of local residents and save money by handing over property to bodies better able to look after it.
- Our community needs a strong independent voice to make sure that Ogmore concerns are effectively heard at all levels of government. With around 850 electors an OBS council would be one of the larger community council areas in the Vale and could support our neighbouring communities as an equal partner where we have interests in common.
- Please take the necessary steps to provide effective and convenient local government for our village.

In addition to the pro-forma the following residents of Ogmore-by-Sea had additional comments to make:

A resident of Sea Drive, Ogmore-by-Sea stated that as a parent and resident of Ogmore-by-Sea, he is all in favour of an independent Council. He suggests that way at least the Council won't be able to hide behind facts and figures with neighbouring villages such as a decent park for the large amounts of children in the village. It is absolutely ridiculous to expect as one of the many parents in the village, to drive to St Brides every time my child wishes to go to the park. This is especially after being told the reason for not putting speed ramps on the grand prix racing circuit the Council have created in Ogmore car park is because of the pollution it would cause to the ozone layer. It is definitely time to have an independent community.

A resident of Sea Drive, Ogmore-by-Sea made the following points:

- I am a resident of Ogmore-by-Sea and, as a wife and mother of a four year old it has become glaringly apparent that there is a significant lack of services and amenities within the village. The Vale of Glamorgan Council is very proud of its family friendly, eco policies but given that our Community Council covers all three villages of Ogmore-by-Sea, Southerndown and St Brides, it is extremely difficult for any parent living within Ogmore-by-Sea to support those policies when all our civic and family amenities are based within St Brides Major some 2.7 miles away.
- The schools, (both playgroup and primary school), safe children's playground (the one in Ogmore-by-Sea is not only missing equipment but doesn't have any safe floor covering), several shops (post office and village store, clothes shop and gift shop) and public houses (The Fox & Hounds and Farmer's Arms) are based within St Brides and not only does accessing these facilities require parents to drive to the village, cars require space in which to park in what is already a congested main road shared with HGV lorries and general traffic. Pollution in St Brides must be an issue as a result.
- We really need our own, independent Community Council that can have autonomy to preside over matters that affect Ogmore-by-Sea and support the 1,000 or so residents. We no longer want a combined Community Council that on the face of it claims that Ogmore-by-Sea is well catered for based on the facilities that are

shared with other more geographically spread villages, we need facilities that can be accessed by all on foot, saving time, fuel, pollution and congestion looked after by a group of people that care about the village they live in.

- Please accept this as my vote in favour of an independent Community Council for Ogmore-by-Sea.

Two residents of Marine Drive, Ogmore-by-Sea request that consideration is given to the provision of a new Community Council area based on the Ogmore-by-Sea ward of St Brides Major Community Council. Their reason behind the request is the depleted number of community facilities in Ogmore-by-Sea and the need for the community to have a stronger independent voice to communicate these concerns. They ask that consideration is given to this request and the necessary steps are taken to provide effective and convenient local government.

A resident of Ewenny, Bridgend commented that the previous review of the Ewenny Parish boundary divided the community in half by establishing the boundary along the river Ewenny. The area transferred out to Oldcastle ward of Bridgend was considered part of Ewenny Village, and included the Potteries, which were famously associated with Ewenny.

He suggested moving the boundary to follow the line of the Vale of Glamorgan Railway and Branch railway line to the Ford factory as outlined in his attached plan. One reason for this being that the connecting public footpath from Bridgend town passing through Ewenny Moors, linking to the well-maintained public footpath system of the western Vale of Glamorgan, is not cared for nor featured in publicity material. He suggested that it would be sensible to incorporate this important path into the control on one authority. The second reason being bringing together the village of Ewenny after it being split in the last review.