

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES MEETING HELD ON  
7<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2008 AT CARADOG HOUSE, CARDIFF**

Commissioners

Mrs. S G Smith (Chair)  
Mr. D H Roberts (Deputy Chair)  
Rev. H M Davies (Member)

Secretariat

Mr. E H Lewis (Secretary)  
Mr. S R Halsall  
Mr. D Carr  
Mrs. Liza Brough  
Mr. Robert Griffiths

The Commission welcomed Mr Robert Griffiths who had recently joined the Secretariat.

**1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

1.1 There were no new interests declared.

**2. MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2007**

2.1 These were agreed.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

**Audit Arrangements**

3.1 The Secretary reported that he had written to the Auditor General for Wales as agreed at the last meeting but no reply had been received to date. **It was agreed** that the Secretary would chase a response.

**Operational Plan**

3.2 It was reported that the directions for the Swansea community review had been received from the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) and had therefore been included into the Operational Plan. It was expected that WAG would issue a remit letter for the current year in due course and, until that had been received, it was not possible to complete the Operational Plan.

**Committee On Standards In Public Life (CSPL) – The Government Response**

3.3 The Secretary reported that he had written to the Permanent Secretary and had received a reply, which was tabled to members. **It was agreed** the review of the legislation would be included on the agenda for the forthcoming Inter Commission meeting in March 2008.

**Wrexham Community Review**

3.4 It was reported that a letter had been sent to the Local Government Minister regarding the Wrexham Community Review and that no response has been received to date.

## **Inter Commission Meeting**

- 3.5 It was reported that the forthcoming Inter-Commission meeting would be held at the Park Plaza Hotel. An Inter-Commission dinner will be held on the evening of the 6<sup>th</sup> March followed by the Inter-Commission meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

## **4. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY BOUNDARIES IN THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF CAERPHILLY - SUMMARY OF INITIAL REPRESENTATIONS**

### **Caerphilly Town and Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn**

- 4.1 The Commission considered the suggested boundary realignments between the Trecenydd Ward of Penyrheol, Trecenydd & Energlyn and the Castle and Watford Wards of Caerphilly. It was noted that both Community Councils had put forward and supported these changes which involved adopting the line of the Nantgarw Road as an amended boundary thereby transferring part of the Sunningdale estate from Caerphilly into Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn and part of the Cwrt Rawlins estate from Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn into Caerphilly. Caerphilly Town Council had also pointed out that if this boundary were adopted then it would also be necessary to realign the nearby ward boundary between the Castle and Watford wards of their Community as part the existing ward boundary would no longer be appropriate. It was also noted by the Commission that developments had taken place across the existing boundary between the Castle and Watford Wards and that this anomaly needed to be addressed. The Council also suggested that with the inclusion of the whole of the Cwrt Rawlins estate within their area it would be desirable to create a new community ward called Cwrt Rawlins Ward which would include the Cwrt Rawlins estate together with the north western part of the existing Watford Ward. It was reported that the site visit had confirmed that both the suggested community and community ward boundaries were clearly defined on the ground.
- 4.2 **It was agreed** that the Commission would adopt the realigned boundary between Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn and Caerphilly and that the boundary between the Caerphilly Community Wards of Castle and Watford would be realigned as suggested by Caerphilly Town Council as a consequential change resulting from the change to the community boundary.
- 4.3 The Commission were also minded to consider the creation of a new Cwrt Rawlins Ward in Caerphilly as a consequential change to the realignment of the community boundary should the electorate figures support such a change. **It was agreed** that the electorate figures for the Cwrt Rawlins area would be obtained from Caerphilly County Borough Council to assist the Commission in assessing this proposal.

### **Caerphilly Town**

- 4.4 The Commission noted Caerphilly Town Council's suggested changes to their community ward boundaries. In view of the fact that substantive changes to community electoral arrangements did not fall within the remit allowed by the directions for the community review, they considered that the suggested changes could only be adopted as a consequence to any changes to the community boundary of Caerphilly. The Commission considered that there were no

substantial changes to the Caerphilly Community boundary that would justify altering the community ward boundaries as suggested by Caerphilly Town Council and that any such alteration would need to be carried out after a review by the County Borough Council

### **Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn**

- 4.5 The Commission noted Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn Community Council's suggested change to their community ward boundary between the Energlyn and Trecenydd Wards. It was noted that the suggested realignment of the boundary to include Mill Close and Diamond Close within the Energlyn Ward was an improvement on the existing boundary which divided several properties and that the site visit had confirmed that the suggested boundary was clearly defined. The Commission noted that the suggested changes to the community boundary between Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn and Llanbradach would affect the Energlyn Ward and therefore the suggested change to the community ward boundary with Trecenydd could be considered as consequential. However, as both proposals would involve an increase in the number of electors in the Energlyn Ward it was not known whether the resulting electoral arrangements would be viable. **It was agreed** to request the electorate figures from Caerphilly County Borough Council for the areas involved and examine the effect of the proposals on the Energlyn Ward.

### **Llanbradach and Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn**

- 4.6 The Commission considered the suggested changes to the boundary between the Communities of Llanbradach and Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn suggested by Llanbradach and Pwllypant Community Council. The Council had put forward these proposals on the basis that the existing boundary divided the Energlyn Estate. Their first proposal to extend the community boundary southward following Heol Las and Heol Pwllypant was found to be clearly defined on the ground during the site visit. The Council's alternative proposal to extend the boundary further south to the bottom of Court Road was found to be problematic during the site visit as it was discovered that the road followed by the western boundary was blocked by a permanent barrier leaving the last 13 houses at the southern point of the suggested boundary without a direct road link to the area which would be transferred into Llanbradach.
- 4.7 The Commission considered an alternative proposal suggested by Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn Community Council that their council area should be extended northwards to include the northern part of the Energlyn Estate currently in the Pwllypant Ward of the Community of Llanbradach, together with the area of open land to the north and the properties to the west of the railway line running from Llanbradach to Caerphilly. The site visit had confirmed that the railway line appeared to divide the Pwllypant Ward and would provide a clearly defined boundary. The Commission considered that the railway line effectively divided the Pwllypant Ward of Llanbradach Community and therefore the proposal put forward by Penyrheol, Trecenydd & Energlyn Community Council to use that railway line as the boundary between their community and the Community of Llanbradach had merit. **It was agreed** that the Commission would adopt the proposal put forward by Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn Community Council to realign the

community boundary to follow the railway line north and then follow the Pwllypant Ward boundary westwards until rejoining the existing boundary.

### **Llanbradach and Caerphilly Town**

- 4.8 The Commission considered the suggested changes to the boundary between the Communities of Llanbradach and Caerphilly Town suggested by Llanbradach & Pwllypant Community Council that would transfer two properties on Heol y Gedr off Corbetts Lane from Caerphilly Town into Llanbradach. The Commission considered that this proposal had merit given that the only access to these properties was through Llanbradach. It was noted, however, that a small part of the eastern boundary was undefined. It was reported that the site visit had revealed that there was little scope for changing the suggested boundary at that section as it followed a main road eastwards with no opportunity for turning the boundary northwards to rejoin the existing boundary. **It was agreed** that the Commission would adopt Llanbradach and Pwllypant Community Council's suggested realignment to the boundary between Llanbradach and Caerphilly Town at Corbetts Lane.

### **Llanbradach, Maesycwmmmer and Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen**

- 4.9 The Commission considered the suggested changes to the boundary between the Communities of Llanbradach, Maesycwmmmer and Bedwas Trethomas and Machen suggested by Llanbradach & Pwllypant Community Council. It was considered that the proposal to use the line of the Llanbradach by-pass would result in a clearly defined boundary between the communities involved which had been confirmed by the site visit. **It was agreed** that the Commission would adopt Llanbradach and Pwllypant Community Council's suggested realignment of the boundary between Llanbradach, Maesycwmmmer and Bedwas Trethomas and Machen.

### **Penmaen and Crumlin**

- 4.10 The Commission considered the proposal submitted by a local resident that the boundary between the Communities of Penmaen and Crumlin be realigned to transfer the whole of the settlement of Crospenmaen from Crumlin into Penmaen. It was reported that the site visit had shown that various parts of the suggested boundary were not clearly defined in that adjacent buildings were divided at several points along its eastern and southern line. The Commission considered that, although the settlement did appear as though it belonged in the same community, the suggested boundary did not offer a satisfactory alternative. **It was agreed** that the Commission would seek the views of Caerphilly County Borough Council on the suggested realignment of the boundary.
- 4.11 **It was agreed** that the Commission should adopt the policy of consulting the principal councils and community councils (where applicable) on any suggested boundary realignment submitted by a member of the public or any suggested boundary realignment originating from the Commission itself.

### **Penmaen and Argoed**

- 4.12 The Commission considered the proposal submitted by a member of the public that the boundary between the Communities of Penmaen and Argoed should be

realigned to include the village of Manmoel and its surrounding area within the Community of Penmaen. They noted that the area of Manmoel appeared to be detached from the remainder of Argoed by the Sirhowy River and that it seemed likely that residents could not easily travel directly to the west side of Argoed. It was noted that the suggested boundary followed the Sirhowy River for the majority of its length and should therefore provide a clearly defined boundary although a further site visit would be required to confirm this for the whole of the boundary length. **It was agreed** that the proposal should be provisionally adopted but that also the views of the principal and relevant community councils would be sought before confirmation as a draft proposal.

#### **Penmaen, Blackwood and Pontllanfraith**

- 4.13 The Commission considered the proposal submitted by a member of the public that the boundary between the Communities of Penmaen and Blackwood should be realigned to transfer the settlement of Woodfieldside from Penmaen into Blackwood. They noted that the suggested boundary was clearly defined as it followed a road and that, despite being separated from Blackwood by a river, the area of Woodfieldside had good communication links with Blackwood. It was further noted that the southernmost point of the suggested boundary ended where it met the existing boundary between the Communities of Penmaen and Pontllanfraith whereas it would make more sense for the suggested boundary to continue following the road south to a roundabout and then turn west to follow the road until rejoining the existing boundary. This would result in a small section of Pontllanfraith being transferred into Blackwood together with Woodfieldside. **It was agreed** that the proposal should be provisionally adopted but that also the views of the principal and relevant community councils would be sought before confirmation as a draft proposal.

#### **Pengam and Maesycwmmmer**

- 4.14 The Commission considered the suggested realignment of the boundary between the communities of Pengam and Maesycwmmmer to rectify a minor anomaly. **It was agreed** that the proposal should be provisionally adopted but that also the views of the principal and relevant community councils would be sought before confirmation as a draft proposal.

#### **Pontllanfraith and Maesycwmmmer**

- 4.15 The Commission considered the suggested realignment of the boundary between the communities of Pontllanfraith and Maesycwmmmer to rectify a minor anomaly. **It was agreed** that the proposal should be provisionally adopted with the proviso that the amended boundary be extended southwards to include several properties within Pontllanfraith and that also the views of the principal and relevant community councils would be sought before confirmation as a draft proposal.

#### **Pengam and Cefn Fforest**

- 4.16 The Commission considered the suggested realignment of the boundary between the communities of Pengam and Cefn Fforest to rectify a minor anomaly. **It was agreed** that the proposal should be adopted and that also the views of the principal and relevant community councils would be sought.

- 4.17 The Commission considered the suggested realignment of the boundary between the communities of Pengam and Cefn Fforest to transfer a substantial number of dwellings from Pengam into Cefn Fforest. The dwellings abutted a similar area of Cefn Fforest and it appeared likely that the developed area of Cefn Fforest had extended across the boundary into Pengam. **It was agreed** that the proposal should be adopted and that also the views of the principal and relevant community councils would be sought.

#### **Caerphilly and Van**

- 4.18 The Commission considered the suggested realignment of the boundary between the communities of Caerphilly Town and Van to rectify a minor anomaly. **It was agreed** that the proposal should be adopted and that also the views of the principal and relevant community councils would be sought.

#### **Risca**

- 4.19 The Commission considered the suggestion that the Community of Risca could be divided into two new communities of Risca West and Risca East. Although the Community did not have a community council and was not warded it was divided into East and West for local government electoral purposes. **It was agreed** that the proposal should be adopted and that also the views of the principal council would be sought.

### **5. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY BOUNDARIES IN THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF CONWY- SUMMARY OF INITIAL REPRESENTATIONS**

#### **Llandudno Town Council / Conwy Town Council**

- 5.1 The Commission considered the proposals made by Llandudno Town Council to realign part of the boundary between the Communities of Llandudno and Conwy around the areas of Deganwy, Llanrhos and Bryn Pydew. The reason put forward for the change was that it would incorporate footpaths that would improve the Llandudno Path network and aid management and administration of the paths. The Commission also noted that Conwy Town Council opposed the proposal made to Llandudno Town Council. **It was agreed** that a proposal to realign the boundary between Llandudno Town Council and Conwy Town Council as suggested by Llandudno Town Council, with a small amendment, would be included in the Draft Proposals.

#### **Dolgarrog Community Council / Trefriw Community Council**

- 5.2 The Commission considered the suggestion made by an Officer from Conwy County Council to consider amalgamating Dolgarrog and Trefriw Community Councils. It was reported that letters had been sent to both Dolgarrog and Trefriw Community Councils and to the local County Borough Councillor to obtain their views on the suggestion. The Commission had only received a reply from the County Borough Councillor who suggested that the amalgamation would consolidate the ward [Electoral Division] within Conwy County Borough Council, and facilitate a better-informed representation in the County Borough Council. **It**

**was agreed** that the proposal to amalgamate the two Communities into one Community with no warding would be included in the draft proposals.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE FROM DUFFRYN CLYDACH COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

6.1 **It was agreed** that the Commission would write to the Clerk of Duffryn Clydach Community Council explaining that the Commission would be taking no further action. **It was agreed** that this matter would be registered as a complaint.

## **7. PUBLIC AND PRIVILEGE HOLIDAYS 2008**

7.1 The Commission noted and agreed the dates for the Public and privilege holidays.

## **8. FINANCE REPORT 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER 2007/08**

8.1 The Commission noted the situation at the end of the third quarter for 2007/08. It was reported that the potential under spend for the year-end had been reported to the Sponsor Division.

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

9.1 The Secretary reported that he had received correspondence from the Equality and Human Rights Commission National Director for Wales, a copy of which was tabled to Members. The Commission noted the guidelines contained in this correspondence regarding 'clear print' style and format. **It was agreed** that this would be implemented where practicable as an on-going process.

9.2 The Commission noted the situation regarding the translation of the Anglesey Final proposal report. The Secretary had raised the matter with WAG Welsh Language Division and was still awaiting a reply. **It was agreed** that the Commission would await the response before deciding on any further action to be taken. **It was agreed** that the Commission would continue with the policy of referring to Councils in the plural in both English and Welsh.

9.3 The Commission noted the revised timetable that was tabled to the meeting. It was reported that there could be slippage with the Rhondda Cynon Taff review and that no directions had been received for Blaenau Gwent. It was noted that the proposed timetable put forward by WAG for consultation by the Minister with the Principal Authorities would mean slippage to the start of the Electoral Review. **It was agreed** that Electoral reviews would be a standing item on future meeting agendas.

## **10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

10.1 Dates for future meetings were as agreed at the previous meeting.

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 10:45

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2008 at 10:45