

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES MEETING HELD ON 24<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2008 AT CARADOG HOUSE, CARDIFF**

Commissioners

Mrs. S G Smith (Chair)  
Mr. D H Roberts (Deputy Chair)

Secretariat

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

The Commission welcomed Mrs Abbie Prescott-Bird who had recently joined the Secretariat.

Mrs Smith noted that this was the last meeting that Mr Roberts would be attending and thanked him for all his hard work for the Commission over the past six years.

Apologies were received from Rev. H M Davies (Member).

**1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

1.1 There were no new interests declared.

**2. MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2008**

2.1 These were agreed.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

**3.1 Audit Arrangements**

It was noted that a response had now been received from the Auditor General for Wales.

**3.2 Wrexham**

It was reported that a response had now been received from the Minister, which included his direction for a further review of community boundaries in the County Borough of Wrexham to look at the Community of Abenbury and its boundary with the Community of Caia Park. The review had commenced with initial letters being sent out on 27 March, with representations to be received by 8 May 2008.

**3.3 Anglesey Community Review**

**It was agreed** that the Secretary would make sure that the lessons learned during the translation and approval stage of the Anglesey final report should be applied to future reviews. The Deputy Chair reported that the third point he had raised with the translators did not appear to have been implemented. **It was agreed** that the Secretary would write to Canolfan Bedwyr seeking clarification on the validity of the

Deputy Chair's instructions to the translators. It was noted that Reverend Davies was aware that he would need to take on the translation approval role once the Deputy Chair's term of office was complete.

### 3.4 **Review of Risk Register**

The Secretary had received a response from Crispin O'Connell on the IT transformation issue. This response was that although Mr O'Connell was mindful of the Commission's situation he was only able to confirm that the bulk of the transformation process would be complete by the end of the current (2008/09) financial year but there was no guarantee that the Commission's IT would have been transformed by that time. Mr O'Connell invited the Secretary to liaise with him in order to resolve the MapInfo software situation. **It was agreed** that the Secretary would monitor the situation in respect of the transformation process and would contact Mr O'Connell in respect of the MapInfo problem.

### 3.5 **Elections to Welsh Local Authorities**

Legal advice had been received in respect of the Commission starting a review during the pre-election period to the effect that the Commission are not precluded from starting a review during this period. It was noted delays were also likely prior to the general election once the next round of reviews had begun. It was noted that this might need to be discussed with the Minister at the meeting in September to make him aware of the situation. It was noted however that some delay seemed inevitable during these times, although careful planning should minimise this.

## 4. **CAERPHILLY COMMUNITY REVIEW – FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF INITIAL REPRESENTATIONS**

- 4.1 The Commission considered the replies received from community councils concerning the boundary changes proposed by the Commission and a member of the public. It was noted that Caerphilly County Borough Council had not yet responded to the Commission's request. The Commission noted that Caerphilly Town Council had not objected to the proposed change to the boundary between their community and the community of Van. Blackwood Town Council had queried why the proposed change to the boundary between their community and Penmaen had been made given that the existing boundary followed the long established line of the Sirhowy River.
- 4.2 It was noted that Argoed Community Council and a local councillor had put forward objections to the proposed change to the boundary between Argoed and Penmaen. The Commission considered that these representations did not put forward a very strong case against the proposal. However, they also considered that the original reasoning behind the proposal was also insubstantial. **It was agreed** that the Commission would include this proposal in their Draft Proposals report.
- 4.3 The Commission noted that Maesycwmmmer Community Council agreed no objection to the most of the proposed boundary realignment between their community and Pontllanfraith but did not consider that the five dwellings to the south of the dual carriageway should be transferred to Pontllanfraith as the residents strongly identified with Maesycwmmmer. The Commission noted that the five dwellings were somewhat detached from the main built-up area of

Maesycwmmmer and that there seemed little scope for further development in the vicinity. **It was agreed** that for the Draft Proposals the Commission would proceed with the original proposal to transfer the five dwellings into Pontllanfraith.

- 4.4 **It was agreed** that, subject to receipt of a response on the proposals from Caerphilly County Borough Council, all of the original proposals would be included in the Draft Proposals Report.

## 5. BRIDGEND COMMUNITY REVIEW – CONSIDERATION OF INITIAL REPRESENTATIONS

### 5.1 Bridgend and Merthyr Mawr

The Commission considered that the suggested change to the boundary between the communities of Bridgend and Merthyr Mawr made sense as the existing boundary divided properties at Island Farm Close. It was noted that Merthyr Mawr had objected to the proposal, as they were already able to deal with any matters that arose in respect of the area concerned. The Commission considered however, that the suggested boundary was preferable to the status quo. **It was agreed** that the proposed boundary change would be included in the draft proposal report.

### 5.2 Bridgend, Brackla and Coychurch Lower

The Commission noted that there were no objections to the proposed re-alignment of the boundary between these communities. **It was agreed** that the suggested boundary would be included in the draft proposals report.

### 5.3 Coychurch Higher and St Bride's Minor

The Commission noted the re-alignment of the boundary between Coychurch Higher and St Bride's Minor, suggested by Coychurch Higher Community Council. They considered that the area involved was substantial and **it was agreed** that without further evidence to support a change, they did not feel able to make the proposal in the draft proposals report.

## 6. POWYS – MERTHYR TYDFIL BOUNDARY REVIEW – CONSIDERATION OF REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO DRAFT PROPOSALS

- 6.1 The Commission noted the representation from Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council that consideration be given to the re-aligned boundary being extended to include Dol-y-Gaer Outdoor Pursuit Centre. They considered however, that the area involved was too extensive to be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government and **it was agreed** that they would retain the boundary proposed in their draft proposals for the final report.

## 7. SWANSEA COMMUNITY REVIEW – CONSIDERATION OF INITIAL REPRESENTATIONS

## 7.1 Llanrhidian Higher

The Commission noted the suggestions made that the Three Crosses Ward of the Community of Llanrhidian Higher should either form a separate community or be transferred from Llanrhidian Higher into the neighbouring Community of Upper Killay. They considered that a better option for transfer might be to the Community of Ilston rather than Upper Killay. **It was agreed** that the options presented in the Draft Proposals Report would be for Three Crosses to form a separate community or be transferred to either Ilston or Upper Killay and that views on these options would be sought. The additional suggested change between the Llanrhidian Higher Community Wards of Penclawdd and Llanmorlais could be made as a consequential change resulting from any change to the community boundary. If, however, the community boundary of Llanrhidian Higher remained unchanged then the matter would have to be referred to Swansea City and County Council.

## 7.2 Pontlliw and Llangyfelach

The Commission considered that the suggested changes to the boundary to transfer areas of Tir Coed village currently in Llangyfelach into Pontlliw were reasonable and well supported. It was noted that the current Swansea City and County Council development plan did not show any further development in the vicinity of the proposed boundary realignments. **It was agreed** that the proposed boundary changes would be included in the Draft Proposals Report.

## 7.3 Llangyfelach and Mynyddbach

The Commission noted that the suggested change to the boundary between Llangyfelach and Mynyddbach had also been put forward by Llangyfelach Community Council although they had also included additional dwellings to the south of the Commission's suggested realignment. These dwellings had been omitted from the Commission's suggestion as it was considered that the only access to them would remain through Mynyddbach. **It was agreed** that the Commission's proposal would be included in the Draft Proposals Report.

## 7.4 Cockett and Townhill

The Commission considered that although a change would be required to deal with the anomaly of the divided commercial area there was no obvious realignment for the existing boundary to follow. One realignment that had been considered was to follow the line of the railway tunnel to the north although this was not pursued as it followed a feature that was not visible on the ground. The suggested realignment to follow the road to the south of the commercial area would transfer some residential properties into Cockett whilst leaving neighbouring properties in Townhill. **It was agreed** that the proposal to follow the road to the south of the commercial area would be included in the Draft Proposals Report.

## 7.5 Cockett and Penderry – Fforestfach Retail Park

The commission considered that the suggested realignment made sense in view of including the whole of the retail park within the same community and in terms of access to the retail park. **It was agreed** to include this proposal in the Draft Proposals Report.

#### 7.6 Cockett and Penderry – Courtlands Way

The Commission considered that the suggested realignment of the boundary made sense as the access to the properties was through Cockett. **It was agreed** to include this proposal in the Draft Proposals Report.

#### 7.7 Landore and Morriston

The Commission considered that the suggested realignment of the boundary to include the whole of the Plasmarl Industrial Estate in Morriston would be desirable to resolve the anomaly of the existing boundary. **It was agreed** to include this proposal in the Draft Proposals Report.

#### 7.8 Bonymaen and Llansamlet

The Commission considered that the suggested realignment of the boundary to follow the railway was desirable as it resolved the anomaly of the divided industrial estate. This also applied to the suggested realignment to the north east where the existing boundary also divided a small commercial park. The Commission noted that this suggested realignment omitted to include a small area to the west, which appeared to have affinity with the commercial park. **It was agreed** that the proposed realignment in this area would be amended to take in the area to the west. **It was agreed** to include these proposals in the Draft Proposals Report.

#### 7.9 Penllergaer and Llchwyr

The Commission considered that the suggested realignment of the boundary to follow the dual carriageway to the south appeared to be desirable. It was noted that this realignment did not take account of the boundary between the Penllergaer Community Wards of Penllergaer West and Penllergaer East. It was agreed that the boundary between the Penllergaer Community Wards of Penllergaer West and Penllergaer East would follow the line of the existing community boundary south west until meeting the proposed boundary. **It was agreed** to include these proposals in the Draft Proposals Report.

#### 7.10 Penllergaer and Llangyfelach

The Commission considered the suggested realignment of the boundary to include much of the area of the former Penllergaer Estate within the Community of Penllergaer. It was noted that the Secretariat had experienced some difficulties in identifying a suitable realignment of the existing boundary given the large area involved and the lack of suitable features for the boundary to follow in the woodland area involved. The Commission noted that the existing boundary, which followed the River Llan, did not divide any settlements. Although the Commission acknowledged the Penllergaer Trust's reasons for wishing the existing boundary to be changed they questioned whether it would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government to change a clearly defined existing boundary for reasons which appeared to them to be solely in order to re-establish an historic area. **It was agreed** that the proposed realignment of the boundary between Penllergaer and Llangyfelach would not be included in the Draft Proposals Report.

#### 7.11 Clydach and Birchgrove

The Commission considered that it would be desirable to include the whole of Glais village within the same community. They noted that the majority of the village was currently situated within the Community of Birchgrove. **It was agreed** that the Commission would propose that the whole of Glais village be included into the Community of Birchgrove in their Draft Proposals Report but that the alternative option for including the village within Clydach would remain as an option.

#### 7.12 Dunvant

The Commission considered the possibility of transferring the grounds of Dunvant Rugby Club into the Community of Dunvant from the Community of Upper Killay. Although they considered that there would be some merit in such a change there did not appear to be an easily identifiable alternative boundary and it was also questionable as to whether such a change would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government. **It was agreed** that a proposed realignment of the boundary to include Dunvant Rugby Club within the Community of Dunvant would not be included in the Draft Proposals Report.

#### 7.13 Dunvant and Upper Killay

The Commission considered that the proposed realignment of the boundary to transfer the properties south of Ddol Road from Upper Killay into Dunvant was desirable as the only means of access to the properties was through Dunvant. **It was agreed** to include this proposal in the Draft Proposals Report.

#### 7.14 Clydach and Morryston

The Commission considered that the suggested realignment of the boundary extended too far to the west in order to take in Pen-y-Rhedyn although they considered that there was merit in including the area directly adjacent to the existing boundary within Clydach. **It was agreed** that the proposal would be amended to exclude the area of Pen-y-Rhedyn and that the amended proposal would be included in the Draft Proposals Report.

#### 7.15 Llangyfelach and Morryston

The Commission considered that there was merit in the suggested realignment of the boundary to follow Pant Lasau road. It was noted that the suggested boundary could be extended further north along Pant Lasau Road until it met the existing boundary. **It was agreed** that the proposal would be amended to follow the length of Pant Lasau Road until it met the existing boundary and that the amended proposal would be included in the Draft Proposals Report.

#### 7.16 Townhill

The Commission considered the suggestion that the Townhill and Mayhill areas of the Community of Townhill were two distinct separate communities that deserved individual representation on the County Council. They noted that this could only be achieved by creating two new communities, as Townhill did not have a community

council thus ruling out the creation of two community wards. It was also noted that there was a group of properties in the Community of Castle that were adjacent to the Townhill boundary and appeared to be only accessible through Townhill. **It was agreed** that because of a lack of evidence of support from the electorate for the creation of two new communities that no proposal would be made at this stage. The suggestion would only be included in the Draft Proposals Report in order to obtain further views on it. **It was agreed** however that a proposal to realign the boundary between the Communities of Townhill and Castle to include the group of properties identified within Townhill be adopted.

#### 7.17 Cwmbwrla and Penderry

The Commission considered that the suggested realignment made sense as the only access to the properties involved was through Penderry. **It was agreed** that the proposed realignment of the boundary between the Communities of Cwmbwrla and Penderry would be included in the Draft Proposals Report.

#### 7.18 Gorseinon and Grovesend and Waungron

The Commission considered that the suggested realignment made sense as the only access to the properties involved was through Grovesend and Waungron. **It was agreed** that the proposed realignment of the boundary of the Communities of Gorseinon and Grovesend and Waungron would be included in the Draft Proposals Report.

#### 7.19 Gorseinon and Llwchwr

The Commission noted the suggested realignment of the boundary that addressed the anomaly of the existing boundary that divided part of the estate in the vicinity of Heol Pentre Bach. The suggested realignment transferred the area in question into the Community of Gorseinon on the grounds that all access to the properties involved was through Gorseinon. A representation was tabled from Llwchwr Town Council that objected to the suggested realignment and put forward an alternative boundary, which followed Heol Pentre Bach east, and then Hawthorn Avenue until rejoining the existing boundary. The Commission considered that the alternative boundary proposed by Llwchwr Town Council was not as effective as the initial suggestion as the Council's proposal still left properties in Llwchwr, which only had access through Gorseinon. It was noted that in order to remedy this it would be necessary to extend the boundary for a considerable distance into Gorseinon, which would result in a large area of Gorseinon being transferred into Llwchwr. **It was agreed** that the Commission would retain their original suggestion for the realignment of the boundary between the Communities of Gorseinon and Llwchwr, which would be included in the Draft Proposals Report.

#### 7.20 Gorseinon and Penllergaer

**It was agreed** that this minor change to the boundary would be included in the Draft Proposals Report.

#### 7.21 Other proposals

7.21.1 The Commission noted that there were proposed boundary changes, which had been suggested by some community councils, which had not been mapped due to the inadequate written description provided. The Secretariat had written to those Councils to seek clarification but had not received replies to date. **It was agreed** that the Secretariat would write again to the Councils to inform them that if clarification of the areas involved in their suggested changes were not received by the June Commission meeting then those suggested changes would not be included in the Draft Proposals Report.

7.21.2 **It was agreed** that those representation received which made reference to community or county electoral arrangements, which fell outside the remit of the community review, would be referred to Swansea City and County Council.

## **8. CONWY COMMUNITY REVIEW – DRAFT PROPOSALS REPORT**

8.1 It was reported that the secretariat had ascertained that the asset referred to by Conwy Town Council was Marl Woods. **It was agreed** that further clarification was required as to the extent of this area, and that a letter would be sent to Conwy Town Council requesting this information.

## **9. WREXHAM (FURTHER) COMMUNITY REVIEW**

9.1 It was reported that the further review of communities in Wrexham had now commenced and the deadline for representations was 8 May 2008. **It was agreed** that due to the constraints of the timetable the representations would be presented at the June Meeting and the draft report would be presented at the July meeting.

## **10. ELECTORAL REVIEWS**

10.1 The Commission noted the draft and some minor amendments were proposed and adopted.

## **11. AUDITOR GENERAL'S CODE OF DATA MATCHING PRACTICE – STATUTORY CONSULTATION**

11.1 The Commission noted the report.

## **12. WELSH LANGUAGE SCHEME ANNUAL REPORT 2007-08**

The Commission noted and approved the report.

## **13. REMIT LETTER AND OPERATIONAL PLAN**

The Commission noted the Remit Letter and Operational Plan. **It was agreed** that the Operational Plan would be sent to the Assembly.

**14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

It was noted that directions for the Vale of Glamorgan and Blaenau Gwent Community Reviews had been received, and that initial letters for them would be sent out on 1 May 2008.

- 14.2 It was reported that the recruitment process for one new member of staff at Team Support level had started and that, following the paper sift, interviews would take place on Wednesday 30 April.

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 15.1 Dates for future meetings were as agreed as follows:

Thursday 12th June 2008 at 10:45

Wednesday 16 July 2008 at 10:45