

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

**REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY OF CYNFFIG
IN THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF BRIDGEND**

REPORT AND PROPOSALS

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First Secretary
The National Assembly for Wales

REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY OF CYNFFIG IN THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF BRIDGEND

REPORT AND PROPOSALS

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Bridgend County Borough Council have conducted a review of the Community of Cynffig under Section 55(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994 (the Act).
- 1.2 We have considered Bridgend County Borough Council's report in accordance with Section 55(3) of the Act and submit the following report on the County Borough Council's recommendations.

2. BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL'S PROPOSALS

- 2.1 At present the Community of Cynffig is divided for community electoral purposes into the Cornelly and Pyle community wards. Bridgend County Borough Council propose the creation of two new communities based on these existing community wards. Both of the proposed communities would have community councils.
- 2.2 Bridgend County Borough Council's proposals were submitted to the Commission on 7 July 2000. The Commission have not received any representations about the proposals.

3. THE COMMISSION'S CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 We first considered whether the County Borough Council had conducted their review in accordance with the procedure set out in the Act. We then considered whether the proposals recommended were apt for securing effective and convenient local government.

4. PROCEDURE

- 4.1 We are satisfied that the Bridgend County Borough Council have conducted the review in accordance with the procedure set out in Section 60 of the Act.
- 4.2 At a meeting of Cynffig Community Council on 25 September 1996 the council resolved that:

“The clerk follow the necessary procedures with the appropriate authorities that Cynffig Community Council revert to the status of two separate community councils i.e. Pyle Community Council and Cornelly Community Council”.

- 4.3 Cynffig Community Council made representations to Bridgend County Borough Council requesting a review of the community. As a result of representations received from Cynffig Community Council, Bridgend County Borough Council examined the evidence submitted, held a community opinion poll and consulted with interested parties. The opinion poll was well publicised and held on Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th February 1999. The result of the opinion poll, taking into consideration the votes of the electorate as well as the business vote, was as follows:

Question	Answer	
	YES	NO
DO YOU CONSIDER THAT DIVIDING CYNFFIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL INTO TWO COMMUNITY COUNCILS, ONE TO REPRESENT THE PYLE AREA AND ONE TO REPRESENT THE CORNELLY AREA, WOULD BE IN THE INTEREST OF EFFECTIVE AND CONVENIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT?	599	219

- 4.4 Bridgend County Borough Council gave notice in November 1999 of their intention to conduct a review, inviting initial comments from interested parties. Only one representation was received, that being from the Cynffig Branch of Plaid Cymru, the Party of Wales. The County Borough Council took this representation into consideration in formulating their draft proposals, which were published on 27 January 2000. Public notice of the draft proposals was given and comments were invited by 10 March 2000.
- 4.5 Having considered the representations received the County Borough Council formulated their final proposals. Public notice of the final proposals was given and comments were invited by 2 June 2000. No further representations were received so the proposals were then submitted to the Commission on 7 July 2000.
- 4.6 Section 54(1)(e) of the Act provides for a change in electoral arrangements which is consequential on any change in local government area. The existing community wards of Cornelly with 4,702 electors and Pyle with 5,413 electors are each represented by 9 community councillors. The County Borough Council propose that the two new community councils are each represented by 9 community councillors. Under the existing county electoral arrangements, the Cornelly ward and the Pyle ward each form electoral divisions represented by 2 and 3 councillors respectively. The proposed change to the community electoral arrangements will not therefore require a consequential change to the arrangements for the county electoral divisions.

- 4.7 Bridgend County Borough Council suggested the alternative names of Corneli and Y Pîl for the two new communities. We have confirmed the acceptability of these names with the Welsh Placenames Advisory Committee.

5. EFFECTIVE AND CONVENIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- 5.1 We have noted the widespread support for the separation of the two community areas as evidenced by the opinion poll and the representations made by Cynffig Community Council and the Cynffig Branch of Plaid Cymru the Party of Wales.
- 5.2 We have noted that the two areas have been represented separately on Bridgend County Borough Council since 1996 and on Mid Glamorgan County Council and Ogwr Borough Council prior to this.
- 5.3 Members of the Commission's Secretariat have visited the area and consider that the existing community ward boundary which follows the railway line is both clearly defined and effectively marks the boundary between the two communities of Cornelly and Pyle.
- 5.4 Cynffig Community Council have identified the assets and liabilities of the Community Council and have made proposals as to how these could be divided between the proposed communities. Details of the Community Council's proposals can be found at Appendix 1. We consider that the proposals made by Cynffig Community Council for the division of the Council's assets and liabilities are fair and equitable.
- 5.5 We have noted that Cynffig Community Council's preferred date for the election to the new Councils is May 2002. The date of implementation of these proposals is however a matter for the National Assembly for Wales to consider.

6. PROPOSALS

- 6.1 We have considered Bridgend County Council's proposals and have decided that they are apt for securing effective and convenient local government in the area. We have modified the proposals to incorporate Cynffig Community Council's proposals for the division of the Council's assets and liabilities. Accordingly, we make the proposals as modified, to the National Assembly for Wales. A map showing the area under review can be found at Appendix 2.

7. RESPONSES TO THIS REPORT

- 7.1 Having completed our consideration of the review of the Community of Cynffig in the County Borough of Bridgend and submitted our recommendations to the National Assembly for Wales, we have fulfilled our statutory obligation under the Act.

- 7.2 It now falls to the National Assembly for Wales, if it thinks fit, to accept them or to direct the Commission to conduct a further review.
- 7.3 Any further representations concerning the matters in the report should be addressed to the National Assembly for Wales. 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 National Assembly for Wales. Representations should be addressed to:

Local Government Modernisation 2 Division
National Assembly for Wales
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

PROFESSOR E SUNDERLAND OBE LL MA PhD LLD FIBiol (Chairman)

E F L FITZHUGH OBE DL (Deputy Chairman)

MRS S G SMITH LLB (Member)

R L KNIGHT BA MSc MRTPI (Secretary)

March 2001

Cynffig Community Council's Proposals for the Division of the Council's Assets and Liabilities

The assets and liabilities of Cynffig Community Council will be apportioned to the proposed Cornelly and Pyle Community Councils as detailed below:

1. Assets

1.1 Bank Account

All monies in the Council's bank account to be divided equally between the two new Community Councils.

1.2 Office Equipment

This includes a computer, printer and accessories, fax machine and typewriters. A commensurate cash value amount will be allocated to the Council not benefiting from the receipt of the equipment.

1.3 Allotments/Playing Fields

Maudlam allotments (Cornelly), annual rental £100 to be allocated to the proposed Cornelly Community Council. Playing fields at Groft Goch, Kenfig Hill (Pyle) and Meadow Street, North Cornelly (Cornelly). Cynffig Community Council currently administers both playing fields as agents for Bridgend County Borough Council receiving an annual delegation fee of 5% of monies received. The delegation fees will be apportioned between the two new communities as appropriate.

1.4 Badges of Office

The present badge of Office will be allocated to Pyle Community Council. The former Kenfig Town Council Badge of Office will be allocated to Cornelly Community Council.

2. Liabilities

2.1 Public Hall, Heol Las (Cornelly). There is an agreement on the Public Hall entered into in October 1955 between Ogwr borough council and Kenfig Town Council. The Agreement states that Kenfig Town Council or its successors i.e. Cynffig Community Council will be responsible for the maintenance and decoration of the Hall. The Hall was built with funding from public subscriptions.

Insurance to cover the contents of the Public Hall, North Cornelly (Cornelly), office equipment, Chairman's Badges of Office, War memorial, Moriah Place, Kenfig Hill (Pyle), 6 bus shelters, public liability, fidelity guarantee, and

personal accident will be apportioned between the two new communities as appropriate.

- 2.2 Cynffig Community Council has a responsibility for the maintenance of public rights of way and wayside seats. These responsibilities will be apportioned on the basis of their location.
- 2.3 Annual rental of £50 to Bridgend County Borough Council for the lease on Pwllgath childrens play area, Kenfig Hill (Pyle).
- 2.4 Payment of salaries to clerk, 2 playing fields secretaries and for the cleaning of bus shelters (£9,663 p.a.). The payment of the secretaries salaries will be apportioned accordingly. The bus shelters will be maintained by the community council in which they are situated.