

Community No. R18 - LLANYRE

Introduction

1. The present community of Llanyre is located to the west of the county town of Llandrindod Wells in a landscape that is defined by the confluence of the rivers Ithon and Wye. The Wye forms the community's western boundary, while the Ithon forms its eastern boundary. With the main A470 running through community, it enjoys good regional communication links, and the A4081 and B4358 are routes of local importance, linking the two main settlements in this community with Llandrindod Wells. Newbridge on Wye, classified as a key settlement in the Unitary Development Plan, is the largest settlement in Radnorshire after the four main area centres. It enjoys a good level of local services and facilities, comprising a primary school, community centre and local amenities such as general store, post office, public house, garage and playing fields. Llanyre, classified as a large village in the Plan, has experienced considerable growth in the last 10 years, but still has limited amenities.

2. The community has a population of 1061, an electorate of 940 (2005) and a council of 12 members. The community is warded: Llanfihangel Helygen with 44 electors and two councillors; Llanyre Rural (comprising the large village of Llanyre) with 400 and five, and Llanyre Village (comprising the key settlement of Newbridge on Wye with 496 and five. The precept required for 2005 is £6,827.94, representing a Council Tax Band D equivalent of £14.

3. In the 1982 Review, there were various proposals to amalgamate the very small communities of Radnorshire, and the arrangements that were adopted at that time best reflected community loyalties and social connections in the area. In this case, the preferred amalgamation, following a public meeting, was of the then small community of Llanfihangel Helygen, which was represented by a community meeting, with the then community of Llanyre. In its the draft proposals, the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales recommended that the community should have 2 wards: Llanyre and Llanfihangel Helygen. However, following local representations, the Commission modified its final proposals to establish a community council of 12 members with the following warding arrangement: Llanfihangel Helygen with 44 electors and two councillors; Llanyre Rural with 247 electors and five councillors, and Llanyre Village (comprising Newbridge on Wye) with 291 electors and five councillors.

Summary of representations received prior to preparation of Draft Proposals

4. No representations have been received for this community.

Assessment

5. This community – at both Llanyre and Newbridge on Wye – has seen the fastest rate of electorate growth among Radnorshire’s rural communities, with the overall electorate having risen from 582 in 1978 to 940 in 2005. The Powys Unitary Development Plan allocates two sites for 35 dwellings in the key settlement of Newbridge on Wye and a site for 18 dwellings in the large village of Llanyre. However, some of this development has already been built and has had its effect on the electorate. There may also be infill development and opportunities for affordable housing development adjacent to the settlement development boundaries at both Newbridge and Llanyre, in accordance with Policy HP8 of the Plan. There are also opportunities for a limited number of dwellings in the open countryside in accordance with Policy HP6 of the Plan, and for conversions in accordance with Policy GP6 of the Plan. This community’s electorate will continue to grow, and we estimate that it will rise to about 1,030 electors, suggesting an entitlement in accordance with Table 7 - Guide to Allocation of Councillors to Community Councils to eleven councillors.

6. We have given careful consideration to the question of whether this community should continue to be divided into wards. We are required to apply the criteria in Schedule 11 of the 1972 act in our consideration of this matter, and these are that (a) the number or distribution of the local government electors for the community is such as to make a single election of community councillors impracticable or inconvenient; and (b) it is desirable that areas of the community should be separately represented on the community council. We consider that it is appropriate for areas of this community, focusing on their respective large village and key settlement, to be separately represented on the community council. However, we have noted that the electorate of one of the existing wards is extremely small; Llanfihangel Helygen with 44 would only have an entitlement to 0.51 councillors on a council of eleven members, and this low electorate in itself suggests that a separate ward election would be meritless in this case. We do not consider that it is any longer desirable for this area to be separately represented on the community council. The area sources many of its facilities from outside, and it is no more rural than other parts of this largely rural community. We therefore consider that it is appropriate to merge this small ward with the Rural ward, to create a two ward community, with each ward focused on its large settlement.

7. Currently all wards vote in the same polling station which is the Community Centre, Newbridge on Wye, and we acknowledge that this is not necessarily to the convenience of the electors of the Rural ward and the large village of Llanyre. The new Electoral Administration Act requires us to examine our provision of polling stations, and, using this duty, we will consider whether a more appropriate polling arrangement can be found for the two wards that we now propose for this community.

8. The current ward names must be largely incomprehensible to electors of this community. We would suggest that the ward names should be Llanyre and Newbridge, which we consider would be more comprehensible to the electorate. However, we would welcome the views of the existing community council in this matter. The present ward boundary follows the unclassified county road from Crossway and Disserth to the B4358 and then follows

property boundaries westwards to the community boundary at the river Wye. Our draft proposals in this Review are looking to create a community with two wards, each well focused on its respective large settlement, and we consider that the existing ward boundary would not meet this objective because it is too close to the key settlement of Newbridge on Wye and because it “cuts off” electors who would fall within Newbridge’s area of interest in this community. We are proposing a new ward boundary that will follow the A4081 from the west to Bwlch-y-rhiw and the unmetalled lane to the north of Beili and eastward to the river Ithon. Again, we would welcome the views of the existing community council in this matter. We estimate that some 25 electors would be transferred from our proposed Llanyre ward to the proposed Newbridge ward under this proposal.

9. Schedule 11(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 requires us, in fixing the number of community councils to be elected for each ward, to have regard to any change in the number or distribution of the local government electors of the community which is likely to take place. While the growth of the electorate of this community has been marked, development has been fairly evenly balanced between both large settlements. However, the designated key settlement, Newbridge on Wye, is likely to experience the greater continuing growth. The following table examines the appropriate allocation of councillors to our two proposed wards in this community.

	Llanyre	Newbridge
Projected Electorate	450	580
Percentage of total Electorate	43.69	56.31
Councillor entitlement (11)	4.81	6.19

The table suggests that the most appropriate allocation of councillors between wards in the community would be: Llanyre – 5, Newbridge – 6, which would serve to secure a good parity of representation across the different parts of this community while very marginally favouring the larger and more rural Llanyre ward.

Draft Proposals

10. That there should be a community of Llanyre comprising the present community of that name;

The community should have a council of 11 members;

The community should be warded as follows:

(Ward)	Electorate	No of Councillors	Electors per Councillor
Llanyre	450	5	90

