

## **FINAL PROPOSALS**

### **Community No. B11 - GWERNYFED**

#### **Introduction**

1. The present community of Gwernyfed is located on the north-western slopes of the Black Mountains, as they fall to the rivers Llynfi and Wye, which form the north-western boundary of the community. The south-western boundary of the community comprises part of the high ridge of the Black Mountains, from The Twmpa to Pen Rhos Dirion, and much of the topography of the community is defined by the small streams that flow north-westwards in their immature valleys from this dramatic ridge. In the Powys Unitary Development Plan, Three Cocks / Aberllynfi is defined as a key settlement because of its size, its important local employment function and the services available. The large village of Glasbury is bisected by the river Wye, and consequently parts, including its historic core and allocated development sites, lie within Radnorshire and parts within Brecknockshire. The north-western part of Velindre, a settlement which contains limited services and facilities, has been defined as a small village in this Plan, while Pont Ithel has been defined as a rural settlement in the same Plan. The south-eastern part of Felindre is defined as a 3rd tier settlement in the Brecon Beacons National Park Unitary Development Plan. The remainder of the population lives in scattered farms and dwellings, although the south-eastern part of the community is very sparsely populated.

2. This community is evenly divided by the boundary of the Brecon Beacons National Park, with the unclassified Talgarth to Llanigon county road forming part of the Park's northern boundary.

3. The community has a population of 995, an electorate of 795 (2005) and a council of 10 members. The community is warded: Aberllynfi with 371 electors and five councillors; Tregoyd and Velindre with 424 and five. The precept required for 2005 is £4,000, representing a Council Tax Band D equivalent of £9.15.

4. In the 1985 Review, the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales was concerned to implement appropriate mergers of the small communities of Brecknock, and with regard to the proposed communities of Bronllys and Gwernyfed, a number of options for merger were considered until a degree of unanimity was achieved. The main outcome of the 1985 Review was to merge the then community of Aberllynfi with the then community of Tregoyd and Velindre to create a new community of Gwernyfed. However, further changes were also made: that part of the then Bronllys community which lay to the east of the river Llynfi and which included Lower Porthamel and Bradwys, and that northern part of the then community of Llanellieu which included Common Bychan and Upper Cwmcadarn were also transferred to the new community. The south-eastern boundary of the new

community was defined as the ridge-line on the Black Mountains, so that a salient of the former community of Tregoyd and Velindre that lay beyond this ridge-line at Darren Lwyd was transferred eventually to the new community of Llanigon.

5. Considered at length was the issue of the then district boundary between Brecknock and Radnorshire, which serves to divide the large village of Glasbury. The majority of consultees agreed that the river Wye formed a 'natural' and 'easily definable' boundary in this area and that no alteration should be made: a view that the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales endorsed. The Commission therefore made its final recommendations for a community council of ten members in a warded community: Aberllynfi with 323 electors (1979) and five councillors and Tregoyd and Velindre with 304 electors and five councillors.

### **Summary of representations received prior to preparation of Draft Proposals**

6. No representations have been received for this community.

### **Assessment**

7. The electorate of Gwernyfed has increased from 627 in 1979 to 795 in 2005. Further development in the Brecon Beacons National Park Unitary Development Plan will be limited to agriculture or forestry dwellings in accordance with policy ES12 of the Plan and to conversions, renovations, demolition and replacement and the enabling of affordable housing in accordance with policies ES24-30 of the Plan. The Powys Unitary Development Plan allocates two sites for 53 dwellings in the key settlement of Three Cocks / Aberllynfi and one site for 5 dwellings in the small village of Velindre. There may be further opportunities for infill development and opportunities for affordable housing development adjacent to the settlement development boundaries, for affordable housing development in the rural settlement of Pont lthel in accordance with Policy HP9 of the Plan, 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. We note that this community's electorate will continue to rise, therefore, to about 880 electors, suggesting a continued entitlement in accordance with Table 7 - Guide to Allocation of Councillors to Community Councils to ten councillors.

8. 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 do not consider that the number or distribution of the local government electors for this community is such as to make a single election of community councillors impracticable or inconvenient; indeed, all electors in the community currently vote at the same polling station which is St Peter's Hall, Glasbury on Wye. (In the absence of a public meeting place in the community, we have exercised our powers under Section 18(2)(c) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 in this matter, for this polling station is outside the community.) Likewise, we do not consider that it is any longer desirable for areas of this geographically compact community to be separately represented on the community council. The community is a well-integrated whole, with all its roads leading north-westwards to the A438 and B4350. The two main settlements are close to one-another, and we would suggest that Three Cocks / Aberllynfi, with its key settlement status, will continue to develop as the main focus of this community.

### **Draft Proposals**

9. That there should be a community of Gwernyfed comprising the present community of that name;

The community should have a council of 10 members.

(Ward)	Electorate	No of Councillors	Electors per Councillor
	795	10	80

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### **Responses to the Council's Draft Proposals**

10. No comments or submissions were received on the Draft Proposals.

### **Final Proposals**

11. That there should be a community of Gwernyfed comprising the present community of that name;

The community should have a council of 10 members.

(Ward)	Electorate	No of Councillors	Electors per Councillor
	795	10	80