

## **FINAL PROPOSALS**

### **Community No. B02 - BRONLLYS**

#### **Introduction**

1. The present community of Bronllys is located in north-east Brecknock, in a landscape that is defined by the meeting of the rivers Dulas, Llynfi and Wye: the former two providing the southern boundary of the community and the latter its northern boundary. It is a community of two converging valleys, with their concomitant convergence of transport routes, the A470, A438, A479(T) and A4079, and their distinct settlement patterns. In the Llynfi valley, Bronllys has been defined as a key settlement because of its size, its important local employment function and the services available. In the Wye valley, Llyswen is defined as a large village. The remainder of the population lives in scattered farms and dwellings.

2. The community has a population of 816, an electorate of 646 (2005) and a council of 9 members. The community is warded: Pontywal with 425 electors and six councillors; Wye with 221 and three. The precept required for 2005 is £9,000, representing a Council Tax Band D equivalent of £27.24.

3. 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 communities of Llyswen, Pipton and Bronllys to create a new community of Bronllys. However, further changes were also made: that part of the north-east of the then community of Llandefalle, which included Stockley Wood, Llanfawr, Upper Llangoed and Pen-y-graig, was transferred to the new community. Those parts of the then Bronllys community which lay to the east of the river Llynfi, and which included Lower Porthamel and Bradwys, and which lay to the west at Bryndu and Glas-waen, were transferred to the new communities of Gwernyfed and Felin-fach respectively. The Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales therefore made its final recommendations for a community council of nine members in a warded community: Pontywal with 360 electors (1979) and six councillors and Wye with 179 electors and three councillors.

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

4. No representations have been received for this community.

## Assessment

5. The electorate of Bronllys has increased from 539 in 1979 to 646 in 2005. The Powys Unitary Development Plan allocates two sites for 38 dwellings in the key settlement of Bronllys, and three sites for 46 dwellings in the large village of Llyswen. None of these sites has yet been developed, and we understand that there may be obstacles to their development in the short term. There may be further opportunities for infill development and opportunities for affordable housing development adjacent to the settlement development boundaries, 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, eventually probably to about 790 electors, suggesting a continued entitlement in accordance with Table 7 - Guide to Allocation of Councillors to Community Councils above to nine 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 this is particularly desirable in this community of two valleys each with their main local settlement and each served by a good range of community services and facilities.

7. From the west, the ward boundary follows field boundaries over the hill at Mintfield Farm towards the A479(T). To this point we consider that the ward boundary represents a very appropriate parting of local attachments. However, from this point the boundary turns southwards to follow the A438 briefly before following field boundaries and the stream at Coldbrook to join the river Llynfi. We consider that it would be more appropriate for the ward boundary to continue eastwards along the ridgeline to Long Cairn before descending to meet the river Llynfi. This, we believe, would be to the greater convenience of inhabitants of properties at Coldbrook and Trevithel, who exit onto the A438 and look to Bronllys for their local services in the first instance. About 12 properties would be transferred from the Wye ward to the Pontywal ward under this proposal.

8. Schedule 11(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 requires us, in fixing the number of community councillors 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. We would suggest that the electorate of the Pontywal ward might increase eventually to about 490, while the electorate of the Wye ward might increase eventually to about 300. The projected ward electorates and councillor entitlements would be as follows:

	Pontywal	Wye
Projected Electorate	490	300
Percentage of total electorate	62.0	38.0
Councillor entitlement	5.58	3.42

In this community and as further development takes place, representation may come to favour the Wye ward. (The two wards are currently finely balanced, as is shown in our draft proposals, below.) However, we consider that this the present allocation is acceptable for the time being; much is dependent upon future development taking place, and we note that this is dependent on ownership and other considerations. We therefore consider that the current allocation of councillors between wards will continue to reflect broadly the projected distribution of the local government electors in this community.

### **Draft Proposals**

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

The community should have a council of 9 members;

The community should be warded as at present, but that an adjustment should be made to the ward boundaries so that all the dwellings that lie to the south of the ridgeline that runs from the hill at Mintfield Farm to Long Cairn are included in the Pontywal ward.

(Ward)	Electorate	No of Councillors	Electors per Councillor
Pontywal	425	6	71
Wye	221	3	74

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

10. A form of submissions was received from Bronllys Community Council supporting the Draft Proposals for this community.

## Final Proposals

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

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