

## **FINAL PROPOSALS**

### **Community No. M03 - BAUSLEY WITH CRIGGION**

#### **Introduction**

1. The present community of Bausley with Criggion lies in the north-eastern corner of Montgomeryshire; its extent is defined by political and natural boundaries: the England - Wales border in the east, the river Severn in the north and west, and a small tributary stream of the river Severn in its south. Almost uniquely among the Montgomeryshire communities, it was not subject to any boundary alterations whatsoever in the 1986 Review. Most habitation is concentrated along the B4393 and lies well and truly within the Shrewsbury commuting area. The large village of Crewgreen comprises three clusters of development strung out along this road with a number of community services and facilities. Less than a mile further along this road is the small village of Coedway where the services comprise a chapel and a public house. Beyond these designated settlements, the population lives in scattered farms and dwellings and in the rural settlement of Criggion.

2. The community has a population of 623, an electorate of 531 (2005) and a council of 9 members. The community is warded: Bausley with 476 electors and seven councillors; Criggion with 55 and two. The precept required for 2005 is £5,500, representing a Council Tax Band D equivalent of £17.71.

3. The main questions that arose in the 1986 Review concerned the warding arrangement, councillor allocation and naming of this community. The division into two wards - Bausley and Criggion - received consensus, although no particular justification was provided for this warding arrangement other than "to ensure adequate representation of all sections of the community". However, the allocation of councillors to each ward was the subject of some dispute. The then Bausley with Criggion Community Council argued for three councillors for the Criggion Ward. The Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales made final proposals for an allocation of seven councillors for the 280 electors of the Bausley ward and one for the sixty electors of the Criggion ward. This matter was finally resolved by the Decision Letter of the Secretary of State for Wales, dated 21 October 1985, which altered the allocation of councillors to Bausley - 7 councillors and Criggion - 2 councillors.

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

4. A submission form has been received from Bausley with Criggion Community Council, proposing no changes in this community.

## Assessment

5. The total electorate of Bausley with Criggion has increased from 340 in 1980 to 531 in 2005. In the Unitary Development Plan three development sites are allocated for the development of 21 dwellings in the large village of Crewgreen and there may be opportunities for infill development and affordable housing development adjacent to the settlement development boundaries. At Coedway there are no allocated sites, although there may be opportunities for infill development together with opportunities for affordable housing development adjacent to the settlement development boundaries. Elsewhere, there are opportunities for affordable housing development in the rural settlement of Criggion 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, therefore, rise to about 570, suggesting an entitlement in accordance with Table 7 - Guide to Allocation of Councillors to Community Councils to eight councillors.

6. We have noted that, as development has continued at Crewgreen and Coedway, the discrepancy between the councillor allocation for the two existing wards has increased. In the Bausley ward with 476 electors and seven councillors, each councillor represents 68 electors, whereas in the Criggion ward with 55 electors and two councillors, each councillor now represents 28 electors. (In these circumstances, it would clearly be contrary to the interests of effective and convenient local government to hold a separate ward election for two councillors for the Criggion ward's 55 electors.) Real councillor entitlements on a projected electorate of 570 would be as follows:

	Bausley	Criggion
Projected Electorate	515	55
Percentage of total electorate	90.4	9.6
Councillor entitlement	7.23	0.77

We proceed to give careful consideration to the question of whether this community should continue to be divided into wards.

7. We are required to apply the criteria in 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 Brynhafren Community Centre. Likewise, we do not consider that it is any longer desirable for areas of this geographically small community to be separately represented on the community council. Some may argue that Criggion is the more rural and sparsely populated area, but, equally, the existing Bausley ward is primarily rural in character, especially in the Pritchard's Hill, Kempster's Hill and Bausley Hill areas and in the Pecknall - Shotten salient. This cannot, therefore, be considered as a single community that comprises different parts.

## **Draft Proposals**

8. That there should be a community of Bausley with Criggion comprising the present community of that name;

The community should have a council of 8 members;

(Ward)	Electorate	No of Councillors	Electors per Councillor
	531	8	66

---

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

9. A form of submissions has been received from Bausley with Criggion Community Council. This only comments concern our proposals to reduce the number of councillors on this council from nine to eight, with the council stating, "As there is continued development in the area we feel it is necessary to ensure adequate representation in the diverse sections of the ward."

## **Assessment**

10. In our paragraph 6 above, we have given very careful consideration to the impact that future development will have on this community. The location of the community, within the Shrewsbury commuting area, has created particular pressures for development. Across our County, we have looked carefully at a number of communities that have a present electorate in the 500s, and we have found that there are seven where the electorate is likely to exceed 600 in the Unitary Development Plan period. In those cases, we have felt it appropriate to raise our allocation of councillors to nine, in line with our Table 7 – Guide to Allocation of Councillors to Community Councillors, and in line with the guidance in Schedule 11(4) of the Act that we should be mindful of the electorate of a community five years ahead of our Review. However, we do not consider that the electorate of the Community of Bausley with Criggion will exceed 570 within the Plan period, and, for this community, we adhere to our

Draft Proposals in this matter. Our allocation of eight members to this compact community will provide a high level of representation of one councillor for every 66 electors, which is the average level of representation in our Draft Proposals for rural communities across the County.

### **Final Proposals**

11. That there should be a community of Bausley with Criggion comprising the present community of that name;

The community should have a council of 8 members;

(Ward)	Electorate	No of Councillors	Electors per Councillor
	531	8	66