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Cowbridge (Ancient Borough) with Llanblethian Town Council



**Submission to Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales
Vale of Glamorgan Community Review.
October 2023**

Summary of draft proposals by Boundary Commission dated September 2023

The part of the Darren Farm development currently in the Penllyn Community Council area to be transferred to Cowbridge with Llanblethian.

The wards within Cowbridge with Llanblethian to be re-drawn and re-organised to form 4 new wards: Aberthin (as existing), Cowbridge Central, Llanblethian, Cowbridge North West. As proposed by Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council.

The Wards of Llanfair and St Hilary, which currently form Llanfair Community Council, to be brought within Cowbridge with Llanblethian.

The name of the Council to be changed to Cowbridge with Llanblethian and Llanfair Town Council.

The number of Councillors for the existing Council area to be reduced from 15 to 13 with 3 Councillors to be added for the Wards of Llanfair and St Hillary to make a total of 16.

External boundary

The Town Council is pleased that the part of the Darren Farm development currently in the Penllyn Community Council area is to be transferred to Cowbridge with Llanblethian but disappointed that its other proposed changes have not been accepted.

On Friday 6th October, 3 representatives of Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council met with 2 representatives of Penllyn Community Council for an informal meeting to gain a better understanding of each other's respective positions on the boundary between the two council areas.

Both Councils are in favour of the part of the Darren Farm development currently in the Penllyn Community Council area being transferred to Cowbridge with Llanblethian but believe that the area transferred should include the strip of land between the new link road and the track running from the A48 to St Brynach's Church. This is because that strip of land is part of the Darren farm development. It contains drainage ponds for the estate. It is understood that this land, together with other communal areas on the estate, is managed on behalf of the residents by a company appointed by the developer.

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Having the new western boundary as the track running from the A48 to St Brynach's Church will mean that the strip of land is within the Cowbridge with Llanblethian area but that the church and coffin stiles remain in the Penllyn area, something which is important to Penllyn Community Council

Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council proposed that the northern boundary should be moved in order to encompass following properties:

Forage, Llwynhelyg House, Llwynhelyg Cottage, Llwynhelyg Farm, Robin Hill, White Cottage, The Lodge, the holiday cottages, the chicken farm and the composting plant.

The proposed new boundary was drawn on the map in an effort to follow natural features and it was left to the Boundary Commission to decide on the most appropriate boundary. However, the Boundary Commission document does not appear to address this proposal.

Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council believes that these properties should be transferred to its area because:

They are immediately adjacent to Cowbridge.

They have Cowbridge postal addresses.

They are considered by most local residents to be part of Cowbridge.

It is likely that the businesses derive much of the revenue as a result of their closeness to Cowbridge.

In the meeting on 6th October the representatives of Penllyn Community Council made it clear that their Council believed that these properties should remain within the Penllyn area because of historic and other associations.

Ward boundaries

The Town Council is pleased its recommendations with regard to Ward boundaries have been accepted.

Llanfair and St Hilary

In its first submission to the Boundary Commission the Town Council stated that:

“If the Commission choose to include Llanfair and St Hilary within the Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council boundary, as suggested in the Vale of Glamorgan Council's draft response, then the Town Council would be content but would not wish it to be done contrary to the wishes of Llanfair Community Council.”

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Llanfair Community Council's submission included:

“Llanfair Community Council's first preference would be to remain as Llanfair Community Council with the two wards of Llanfair and St Hilary.

Whilst the Vale of Glamorgan Council has suggested a potential for amalgamation with Cowbridge Town Council, the Members would have concerns that the specific needs of the very rural communities of LCC could be lost within the priorities of a Town Council. Ultimately, if any decision was made to progress an alignment or amalgamation, the Members would wish to press for assurance that the wards of Llanfair and St Hilary would continue to be individually recognised ensuring they retain the focus and support necessary for these unique communities.”

On Monday 16th October, 3 representatives of Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council met with 2 representatives of Llanfair Community Council for an informal meeting to gain a better understanding of each other's respective reactions to the Boundary Commission's proposal to include the Wards of Llanfair and St Hilary within the Cowbridge with Llanblethian area.

Section to be added following the 16th of October meeting.

Name of the Council

The full name is currently Cowbridge (Ancient Borough) with Llanblethian Town Council.

It is understood that the "Ancient Borough" was added in 1974 when the Council lost its Borough status and effectively became a Community Council. The Council at that time wished to ensure that the status, history and traditions of the Council were protected. The current Council believes that the status, history and traditions have been well established by successive Council's since that time.

“Llanblethian” was added in 1982 when Cowbridge and and Llanblethian Councils merged.

The name, even without "Ancient Borough", is very unwieldy and the Council is now commonly referred to as "Cowbridge Town Council". The current Council believes that the time is now right for that name to be formally adopted regardless of whether or not the Wards of Llanfair and St Hilary are included.

Number of Councillors

The Town Council is content with the proposal of the Boundary Commission for the number of Councillors for the existing Council area to be reduced from 15 to 13 with 3 Councillors to be added for the Wards of Llanfair and St Hillary to make a total of 16.

Summary of proposed changes

Move Darren Farm development western boundary slightly further west.

Transfer property currently just outside the northern boundary.

Council name to be "Cowbridge Town Council".