

Llandough Community Council

Serving the Community of Llandough



Executive Summary

- The Local Government Democracy and Boundary Commission are considering merging the Community of Llandough with the ward of Cornerswell in Penarth due to the current “under-representation” of the electorate in Llandough.
- This report will show that Community of Llandough is separate, has distinct boundaries, and is a vibrant entity with no potential synergies with Cornerswell.
- The report will show that the LDP looks to expand the Llandough Community by 300 dwellings which means it will meet the Vale of Glamorgan’s requirement for representation by a single councillor
- The Llandough Community Council works hand in hand with the Vale of Glamorgan local councillor, serving its community by arranging and offering a very wide and varied list of activities which will be outlined in this report
- The Llandough Community Council has been awarded two grants which has enabled it to build a Multiuser Games Area (MUGA) to serve the youth of the village. This facility (called for in the Council’s Engagement Survey with the village) offers an area to play a variety of games which will help in vital physical activities. Both the survey and the MUGA have won recent awards from One Voice Wales.
- Llandough has a rich and varied history dating back to Roman times
- Llandough Community Council has strong ties with our local school and helps in several activities. This includes an annual Rogation walk, for classes to see the nature within the boundaries of Llandough, and fund a highly successful Bonfire Night in November which itself generates funds for the PTA
- Along with our regular Newsletters and or Annual Community Handbook, our website (www.llandough-cc.co.uk) shows the extent of activities as well as offering routes for local walks, services offered, contacts and many other useful links for our community.
- The final summary will show why the Community of Llandough ward should not be merged with the Cornerswell Ward in Penarth.

Vale of Glamorgan Electoral Reform

Background:

Policy

- The Commission proposes a change to the arrangement of electoral wards that will achieve a significant improvement in the level of electoral parity across the County Borough of the Vale of Glamorgan.
- The Commission proposes a council of 53 members, an increase from the current size of 47. This results in a proposed county average of 1,809 electors per member.
- The Commission proposes 23 electoral wards.
- The largest under-representation (in terms of electoral variance) within the proposals is Plymouth (23% above the proposed county average). At present the greatest underrepresentation is in Rhose (50% above the proposed county average).
- The largest over-representation (in terms of electoral variance) within the proposals is St Athan (26% below the proposed county average). At present the greatest overrepresentation is in Llandough (27% below the proposed county average).
- The Commission is proposing 19 multi-member wards in the county consisting of: ten two-member electoral wards; seven three-member electoral wards; and, two four-member electoral wards.
- The Commission has proposed to retain ten electoral wards.
- The Commission proposes to have one electoral ward (Cornerswell and Llandough) within the county which combines a part of a warded community, along with its neighbouring community.

Justification

- The numbers shown as the electorate for 2019 and the estimates for the electorate in the year 2024 are those submitted by the County Borough of the Vale of Glamorgan. The forecast figures supplied by the County Borough of the Vale of Glamorgan show a forecasted increase in the electorate of The Vale of Glamorgan from 95,865 to 110,768. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has also provided their estimated number of persons eligible to vote but who are not on the electoral register. This showed an estimated 7,581 fewer people eligible to vote than the 2019 electorate.
- The Commission is aware that the Welsh Government is legislating to extend the franchise to include 16- and 17-year olds and foreign nationals, not currently eligible to vote, at the 2022 local government elections. The Commission's Council Size Policy utilises the entire population to determine Council Size and these two groups were included in the Council Size deliberations.
- While 16- and 17-year olds are not in the existing electoral figures provided by the County Borough of the Vale of Glamorgan, they will have been included in the forecasted figures provided by the Council. These figures have been included in the Commission's deliberations on its recommendations.
- Foreign nationals are included in the census data provided by the ONS. Consideration of this data has been included as part of the Commission's deliberations on its recommendations
- In respect of the number of electors per councillor in each electoral ward, there is a wide variation from the current county average of 2,040 electors per councillor ranging from 27% below (1,490 electors – Llandough) to 50% above (6,111 electors – Rhose). The determination of the council of 53 members (see paragraph 2) results in an average of 1,809 electors being represented by each councillor.

Current and Proposed Electors in Llandough

Existing

Name	Description	No Councillors	Electorate 2019	2019 ratio	% variance from Proposed County average	Electorate 2024	2024 Ratio	% variance from Proposed County average	Population Eligible to Vote
Llandough	The Community of Llandough	1	1,490	1,490	-27%	1,681	1,681	-29%	1,513

Proposed

Name	Description	No Councillors	Electorate 2019	2019 ratio	% variance from Proposed County average	Electorate 2024	2024 Ratio	% variance from Proposed County average
Cornerswell and Llandough	The Cornerswell ward of the Town of Penarth and the Community of Llandough	3	5,455 [1,490 + 3,965]	1,818	1%	6,090	2,303	-3%

Land Development Plan

LDP – updated June 2017

See: <https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Living/Planning/Policy/LDP/LDP-Adoption/Adopted-LDP-Written-Statement-June-2017-final-interactive-web-version.pdf>

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MG2 (32) Land south of Llandough Hill / Penarth Road – **130 dwellings**

- This 5.23-hectare Greenfield site is located between Penarth Road to the east and Cogan Pill Road to the west. The topography of the site varies considerably, and the southern part of the site includes a former reservoir which is considered as being brownfield land. A large retaining wall supports the reservoir adjacent to Penarth Road and a structural survey will be required to determine the current condition of this wall. The development will be required to contribute towards the provision and/or improvement of walking and cycling routes between Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan including the provision of links to the National Cycle Network. Affordable housing will be delivered in accordance with Policy MG4

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MG2 (33) Land north of Leckwith Road – **8 dwellings but now we know 50**

- The 0.6-hectare site is located on the north westerly edge of Llandough adjacent to Leckwith Road. The site is in a prominent position on a ridge above a former quarry adjoining an area of woodland to the west. The Council approved an outline planning application (application 2014/01401/OUT refers) for 21 dwellings for land to the north and south of Leckwith Road which includes the allocation in October 2015 subject to the signing of a S106 agreement. Affordable housing will be delivered in accordance with Policy MG4.

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MG2 (34) Llandough Landings – **120 dwellings**

- This 6-hectare site is located between the main Vale of Glamorgan railway line and the River Ely. Access to the site is likely to be from Anchor Way. Affordable housing will be delivered in accordance with Policy MG4.

To get to County average

- Needed increase from 1490 to 1809 = **319**
 - Land North of Leckwith Road – 50 dwellings
 - Land south of Llandough Hill / Penarth Road – 130 dwellings
 - Llandough Landings – 120 dwellings
- Extra from MG 2 (32), MG2 (33) and MG2 (34) = **300**

Conclusion

- **With the LDP we will achieve desired number of electors not counting the 16- and 17-year olds or potentially more than two eligible voters from each household**

Llandough Community Council – Who are we and What do we do

- There are Distinct boundaries at all entries to the community. There are only three roads into Llandough – it is a separate entity with no ties to any other ward
- Development of our own website: <http://www.llandough-cc.co.uk/>
- Increases biodiversity with the village by the planting of wildflowers and bulbs and have recently been awarded a “Wildlife Garden” together with the Council taking care of assets such as the Village Green, Village Garden and Brook Green



- We have carried out a Community engagement survey – we know what our elector’s want
- We organise hugely successful annual Village Fete which provides funds for local organisations



- Community Coffee/carol Service



- We have won three One Voice Wales Awards over the past three year
 - **2018 - Best Community Engagement Project** (actual survey can be found on our website: http://www.llandough-cc.co.uk/Community_Engagement_20133.aspx)



- **2019 - Best community council award**
- **2020 - Certificate under Best Local Council Service of the Year**

- **Others**

- The Council has made grants to numerous organisations. For example, the Civic Service in 2019 commemorated the installation of Councilor Pam Gay as the new Chairman proved to be a very successful event with the proceeds of the collection being donated to the Wales Air Ambulance Fund
- The Hall Management Committee has submitted an application for a grant to the Big Lottery Awards for All Scheme for a defibrillator to be supplied and installed on the outside wall of the Hall



- Councillors regularly inspect the condition of the village and when issues are identified they are either addressed by the Council or referred for action to the Vale of Glamorgan Council
- The Community Handbook was completed and delivered to every household in Llandough
- The Council continues to urge the Hospital and Vale of Glamorgan Council to take action to reduce the incidence of staff and visitor car parking on residential roads
- The Council has made suggestions to the Vale of Glamorgan Council in relation to the future of the vacant land off Lewis Road which used to house garages
- The Council has invited the Scout and Guide Hall Committee to enter into dialogue about the funding of building improvements to their Hall
- The Council has asked the Vale of Glamorgan Council to remove the fencing from around the redundant tennis court in the playing fields to enable it to develop as a local bio-diversity site
- The Council responds to planning and change of use applications and attends relevant hearings as needed
- The Council purchased picnic tables for use at the Corbett Road allotments which will provide a welcome facility for allotment tenants
- Organises Litter Picks throughout the year



- **Ward Councillor**
 - The Ward Councillor attends all Council meetings and events demonstrating full commitment to the needs of the Community of Llandough
- **Llandough School**
 - The council works hand in hand with our local school to organise
 - The Annual Firework Night in November
 - The Annual Rogation Walk in May
 - Christmas Coffee Morning in December
- **Community Transport Scheme**
 - The Council operates a community transport scheme for the benefit of local residents who wish to visit to local supermarkets. The service is available on Thursday mornings and anyone interested in accessing the service should contact the Clerk to the Council. Contact Clerk to the Council to hear from anyone who would benefit from taking part in the scheme. As well as providing access to the supermarkets it is an opportunity for those involved to make new friends.



- **Wildflowers in the Community**
 - Wildflower displays are on the village green, village garden and in the playing fields which help to enhance the environment of the community. The Council has a Biodiversity Working Party which meets on a regular basis with a view to developing actions that enhance the bio-diversity of our community. For a number of years, the Council has arranged for the planting of bulbs and wildflower seeds and has also arranged for bird boxes to be installed on trees in the community as well as at the allotments site in Corbett Road. We hope that the community supports the actions of the Council which will feature in its on-going plans to enhance the environment of our community and assist in a small but important way to the Welsh Government's climate change strategy.



○ Allotments

- Allotments became the vogue during and after the 1st World War and today they remain in demand for local food production, exercise and building up of new friendships. Our community council operates a large allotments site off Corbett Road
- The Council also has a reserve allotments site which demonstrates how the Council plans for the future.



○ Llandough Nextdoor Social Media Site

- There are currently around 488 residents in Llandough signed up from a total of 3857 of an area comprising South Cardiff, Lower Penarth and Dinas Powys to this relatively new site that provides the opportunity for all of us to keep in

touch, share news stories and seek advice from each other. This is a great way to keep in touch with neighbours and friends and with your Community Council – the weblink is https://nextdoor.co.uk/neighborhood_feed/ Other local news and conversations can be found in two separate Facebook groups namely Llandough Community News and Llandough Old and New Residents.

○ **MUGA**

- The council have secured funding in total of £90k to have MUGA built in King George V Playing Fields.
- The funds came from:
 - S106, Strong Communities Grant Scheme;
 - Sport Wales; and
 - The Council will be contributing £5.5k from its reserves but householders will not experience any increase in the precept levied by the Council.
- The significant support from grant funders was due to the effective community engagement undertaken by the Council through an award-winning survey as well as its hands-on approach in engaging with residents living near the MUGA site who were all positive about the development.
- The Ward County Councillor took an active interest with the Council throughout the process demonstrating the partnership approach that the Council and its dedicated ward member adopt in all approaches and actions designed to enhance the social and environmental well-being of our close-knit community.
- It works well and the proposed change to electoral boundaries of the Vale of Glamorgan Council would do far more harm than good.
- The MUGA is under construction at the time of this report



- **Llandough Hospital**

- It is the second largest hospital in Wales and comes with its own issues for the community



- Particularly with parking



Some of Our History In Llandough

St Dochdwy's Church



1843



2020

- The current St Dochdwy's church is a 19th building, designed by Samuel Charles Fripp of Bristol and built by David Jones of Penarth at cost of £2,600. It was consecrated in July 1866 by Alfred Ollivant, Bishop of Llandaff.
- The first permanent church building was erected in the 12th century, and after some restoration in the 18th century remained in use until 1820. A new church was built on the site but this church proved too small for a growing population and it was removed and rebuilt as St. James' Leckwith, making way for the current St. Dochdwy's.
- The present church incorporates the Norman chancel arch, which forms the entrance at the base of the tower, and a pair of medieval stained-glass windows depicting St Peter and St Paul, now set in the west wall.
- The building is traditional in style and is of limestone with a slate roof: the interior has boldly patterned polychromatic brickwork. The tower has a saddleback style roof. St Dochdwy's 'was built at almost the same time and in the same style as St Augustine's, Penarth, which it resembles in many respects.
- The church is dedicated to St Dochdwy (otherwise Docco) who is mentioned in the life of St Cadog of Llancarfan and the life of St Samson of Dol.
- St. Dochdwy's is noted for the Celtic Cross of Irbic in its churchyard, dating to the 10th or 11th century, when Llandough was an important monastic site, along with Llantwit Major and Llancarfan. The monument is constructed in Sutton stone, and consists of four moulded blocks, though the top of the cross itself is missing: a similar one can be seen at Llandaff Cathedral. The carving is of an interlacing pattern, and the base includes a carving of a horseman, with two human faces on the sides. The stone includes an inscription **IRBICI**, which means "[the stone] of Irbic", but nothing is known of this person or exactly why the cross was erected.

The Blacksmith Cottage

- The building which was the blacksmith's cottage is now 89 Penlan Road. The cottage, a single-storey stone building, dates from around 1760 and originally had a thatched roof, now replaced by a modern tiled roof.
- The current kitchen area incorporates the former blacksmith's oven, in the form of a brick dome.



The National School No. 2 Lewis Road

- National Schools were set up in the first half of the nineteenth century to provide poor children with an elementary education, in accordance with the teachings of the Church of England. They eventually became voluntary aided or voluntary controlled schools within the state system.
- The stone building on the corner of Penlan Road and Lewis Road, dating from 1825, was the first National School in the Penarth area. It was the initiative of the rector, Rev. James Evans, and was supported by the 2nd Marquess of Bute. At that time the population of Llandough was around 200, and the majority had Welsh as their first language.
- The school building was built in stone, with a slate roof and brick-edged windows. It was planned to accommodate between 50 and 60 children. A smaller house (2 Lewis Road) was built later as a residence for the schoolteacher. By 1870, Llandough's population had increased to over 700, and the Old School was replaced in 1872 by a new building opposite the old school, which was planned to accommodate around 125 children. This building served as an elementary school until January 1941, when it was badly damaged by bombing.
- The Old School is now a private house.



Pound Cottage

- Pound Cottage was formerly the home of the Llandough village pound keeper, who was responsible for catching and keeping stray animals.
- The land belonged to the Bute estate and the original building is believed to date from the 1830s. It was constructed as a two-storey thatched cottage with whitewashed walls: a stone-walled pound for strays attached to the building was demolished in 1950.
- There have been various alterations and additions, in particular single-storey extensions at each end, also thatched.
- The building served as a sweet shop for some years. It is viewed as the last thatched cottage in Llandough



Conclusion

- Llandough and Cornerswell are two distinctly separate communities faced with different and unique issues. It would be detrimental for both wards to merge under one representation. They are separated geographically by a busy principal dual carriageway, and communally by differing political, social and economic requirements.
- Llandough Hospital is the second largest hospital in Wales and is located within the village. Many of the matters and problems dealt with by Llandough's local representative and Community Council relate to the hospital, such as increased traffic flow, excessive staff and visitor car parking on residential roads, various planning permissions as the hospital expands, and community engagement with hospital management.
- Planning permission has recently been granted for 300 dwellings to be built at three separate locations within the village. Llandough is surrounded by countryside so the risk of overdevelopment of green space is an increasingly prominent problem for the village, particularly considering its close proximity to Cardiff. The Llandough Community Council is faced with the conflict of adhering to the aim of the National Development Framework for Wales in protecting the countryside and enhancing biodiversity and ecology and understanding the need for more housing in South Wales. This is not something that affects Cornerswell as an already built up area with limited space for large scale housing developments.
- With Cornerswell being the larger of the two wards, and part of the larger town of Penarth, there is the danger that the issues affecting Llandough would take a back seat to those facing Cornerswell, with potential delays in them being dealt with, or not being dealt with at all.
- Llandough Community Council is one of the most active and effective smaller councils in Wales. It has the capacity and capability to deliver a wide range of services to the community and this appears to be well appreciated by its residents. It has never received a qualified audit report in its entire history and always demonstrates the virtues of solid financial management and governance
- The Community of Llandough should not be absorbed into Cornerswell/Penarth Ward as it clearly supports and offers valuable services to the village of Llandough