

The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission Report for Ceredigion County Council

Cyngor Cymuned Llangynfelyn (Llangynfelyn Community Council) wish to bring to your attention that, currently, the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission have compiled a report for Ceredigion County Council looking at the size of community councils and the number of councillors on each council.

As you will all know our local Cyngor Cymuned Llangynfelyn currently represents Llangynfelyn, Tre'r Ddol, Tre-Taliesin and Craig y Penrhyn - this covers the area from the Leri estuary in the west to Moel y Llyn in the east, and from Lodge Park in the north to Talybont on the A487 to the south.

The Commission's **proposal** is to **merge Llangynfelyn** with **Ysgubor-y-Coed** (which is FFwrnais, Eglwys-fach, Glandyfi, and their environs) and **Ceulanamaesmawr** (which is Talybont, Bontgoch and greater area) and form **1 new community council of Ceulanamaesmawr**.

The new council would have only **7 community councillors for the whole ward** with the breakdown of councillors as follows:

- X1 community councillor from current Ysgubor-y-Coed community
- X2 community councillor from current Llangynfelyn community**
- X4 community councillor from current Ceulanamaesmawr community

Cyngor Cymuned Llangynfelyn believes this does **NOT** reflect the different local identities of each community. Our residents will no doubt suffer from **under representation** – with only x2 community councillor, by being merged with the far more dominant and contrasting village of Talybont (and Bontgoch).

Recent Activity by Cyngor Cymuned Llangynfelyn Community Council

1. Successfully lobbying NMWTRA (Trunk Roads) to re-position bus flag at Tre-Taliesin and provide bus shelter at new position.
2. Successfully lobbying NMWTRA to provide new bus stop and shelter on northbound route at Tre-Taliesin.
3. On-going lobbying of NMWTRA and Ceredigion County Council to provide new bus shelter in Tre'r Ddol.
4. Continued lobbying of NMWTRA and Ceredigion County Council regarding issues with water damage to footpath 6/9 and A487 in Tre-Taliesin.
5. Continued lobbying of Ceredigion County Council regarding issues with road surfaces within the parish.

The passion and drive showed by Community Councillors towards these, and many more, locally important issues has been pivotal to their success but this drive will be lost, going forward, if only x2 representatives would be campaigning for Llangynfelyn on a much larger area Community Council, if the merger of the 3 communities is to go ahead.

What Cyngor Cymuned Llangynfelyn Community Council (9 community councillors) does on a regular basis:

1. It consults on planning applications.
2. It supports local groups and events with grants drawn from the precept.
3. Members regularly co-operate with local groups, particularly the Llanfach committee, to organise and run special events e.g ball run fund-raiser, Karen Wilson mediumship evening, etc.
4. Provides and maintains the Community Council website, which is a crucial source of local information in such a rural area.
5. Provides and maintains public information notice boards.

6. Ensures that all street lighting within the villages is working properly.
7. Provides and maintains hedge growth maintenance on various public rights of way.
8. Monitors and reports problems to both NMWTRA (North and Mid Wales Traffic Agency) and Ceredigion County Council on the many roads within the ward.
9. Monitors and reports local problems to Ceredigion County Council, including bringing pressure to bear in clearing rubbish and fly tipping within the parish.
10. Maintains guardianship of parish owned land at Cors Fochno.
11. Monitors and maintains local public benches.
12. Collaborates with NRW at Cors Fochno – which is part of the Dyfi National Nature Reserve and home to one of the largest and finest remaining examples of a raised peat bog in Britain.
13. Supports other local groups applying for specific grants including a recent one for Llanfach Hall.

And much more.

This level of care and attention to detail would be lost if only x2 representatives would be campaigning for Llangynfelyn on a much larger area Community Council.

Amalgamation could also lead to an **unfair dominance** with the number of Ceulanamaesmawr community councillors on any new council. Even if Llangynfelyn representatives combined with the Ysgubor-y-Coed representative they would still **NOT have a majority on any issue**. Also being only x2 members for the whole Llangynfelyn area will have an impact on each Councillor's time and ability to fully report and monitor any problems – anyone willing to take on the role will struggle to fully represent our community.

It is also worth noting that Llanfach hall may see a financial loss if/following the proposed amalgamation with Ysgubor-y-Coed and Ceulanamesmawr community councils, as rent and donation revenues are likely to decrease.

The Commission vs The Community Council

The Commission suggests that a Community Council should have no fewer than 400 electors – **Llangynfelyn currently has 498 electors**. With the current Community Council arrangements each community councillor represents 55 electors, however with the proposed amalgamation and councillor distribution, each community councillor in Llangynfelyn will need to represent 249 electors each. The Commission note that the size policy is not prescriptive and acts as a guide only (pg 6 of the report).

The Council urges anyone who is concerned about future under-representation to ask the Boundary Commission to reconsider their proposed amalgamation for Llangynfelyn.

Representations

Cyngor Cymuned Llangynfelyn Community Council encourage you to send your views for the proposal of The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission Report for Ceredigion County Council

by email to: consultations@boundaries.wales

by post to : Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales
Hastings House
Fitzalan Place
Cardiff
CF24 0BL

The draft consultation period closes on 13 May 2024.

For more information and to view the draft report visit [Ceredigion Community Review - Draft Proposals webpage](#).