



REVIEW OF COMMUNITY BOUNDARIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DRAFT PROPOSALS

9 July 2026

All observations on these draft proposals should be sent to:

Electoral Services
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
The General Offices
Steelworks Road
Ebbw Vale
NP23 6DN

Or by email to electoral.services@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

No later than midnight on Thursday 20 August 2026.

Contents Page

Chapter 1	Summary of Draft Proposals	3
Chapter 2	The Council Size Policy	4
Chapter 3	The Draft Proposals	6
	Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council	7
	Brynmawr Town Council	10
	Nantyglo & Blaina Community Council	12
	Tredegar Town Council	13
	Ebbw Vale	15
Appendix 1	Existing Community Arrangements	18
Appendix 2	Proposed Community Arrangements	19
Appendix 3	Representations Received	20

Chapter 1 Summary of Draft Proposals

1. The council's Task and Finish group proposes a change to the arrangements of communities and community wards that should ensure that communities continue to reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government across the principal council area.
2. The council's Task and Finish group proposes changes to the boundaries of 4 communities across the principal council area.
3. The council's Task and Finish group proposes changes to the boundaries of 6 community wards across the principal council area.
4. The council's Task and Finish group proposes changes to the electoral arrangements of 10 community wards.
5. During the initial consultation period the Council received representations from 2 Town and Community Councils, 5 Community Councillors and 1 member of the public. The council's Task and Finish group considered the representations carefully before it formulated its proposals. All representations are published at the end of the report.
6. As described in the Terms of Reference, in producing a scheme of community arrangements the Council must have regard to a number of issues contained in the legislation. In the Council's proposed scheme, it has placed emphasis on ensuring that community councils are sufficient in size to support the principal authority's aspirations for the future as well as reduce any democratic deficit, whilst continuing to reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government.
7. In this document, the proposed community and community wards have been given names which are intended to represent the area. The council's Task and Finish group recognises that there may be names that are more appropriate, and it would welcome alternative suggestions which would be effective in either Welsh or English.
8. This draft scheme represents the council's Task and Finish group's preliminary views on the community boundaries and arrangements for the principal council area. It welcomes any representations in respect of these proposals. The Council will consider carefully all representations made to it.

Chapter 2 The Council Size Policy

1. The Council agreed a Terms of Reference and a Town & Community Council Size Policy at a meeting of full Council on the 22 January 2026.
2. The total number of electors within a community council area should be no fewer than 3,750 electors.
3. The Council has stated that communities should be represented by no less than 7 councillors and no more than 26 councillors.
4. The Council has also stated that the ratio of councillors to electors should be 1:650 and based on a sliding scale as set out in the following table:

No. of Electors in Community Council	No. Community Councillors
0 – 4,000	7
4,001 – 6,000	7 – 9
6,001 – 8,000	9 – 12
8,001 – 10,000	12 – 15
10,001 – 12,000	15 – 18
12,001 – 14,000	18 – 21
14,001 – 16,000	21 – 24
16,001 plus	24 – 26

5. At the Local Government elections in May 2017, of the existing twelve community council wards, only 1 community ward was contested; see Table 1 below.
6. At the Local Government elections in May 2022, all twelve community council wards were uncontested; see Table 2 below.
7. Following the 2022 election, there were 27 vacant seats and 12 of those seats were still vacant in January 2025.
8. This is an indication of a democratic deficit in that there is a potential lack of democracy when seats are uncontested.

Table 1 – Community/Town Councils May 2017 Local Elections

TOWN / COMMUNITY COUNCIL	COMMUNITY WARD	SEATS MAY 2017	ELECTION OUTCOME	VACANCIES
Abertillery & Llanhilleth	Aberbeeg	3	Uncontested	2
	Abertillery	5	Uncontested	3
	Six Bells	3	Uncontested	1
	Cwmtillery	5	Uncontested	2
	Llanhilleth	3	Uncontested	3
Brynmawr	Brynmawr North	8	Uncontested	2
	Brynmawr South	8	Uncontested	0
Nantyglo & Blaina	Nantyglo	8	Uncontested	5
	Blaina	8	Uncontested	4
Tredegar	Central & West	8	Uncontested	0
	Georgetown	4	Uncontested	0
	Sirhowy	6	Contested	0

Table 2 – Community Councils May 2022 Local Elections

TOWN / COMMUNITY COUNCIL	COMMUNITY WARD	SEATS MAY 2022	ELECTION OUTCOME	VACANCIES
Abertillery & Llanhilleth	Aberbeeg	3	Uncontested	0
	Abertillery	5	Uncontested	1
	Six Bells	3	Uncontested	1
	Cwmtillery	5	Uncontested	2
	Llanhilleth	3	Uncontested	1
Brynmawr	Brynmawr North	8	Uncontested	5
	Brynmawr South	8	Uncontested	2
Nantyglo & Blaina	Nantyglo	8	Uncontested	4
	Blaina	8	Uncontested	4
Tredegar	Central & West	8	Uncontested	6
	Georgetown	4	Uncontested	1
	Sirhowy	6	Uncontested	0

Chapter 3 The Draft Proposals

1. The proposals are described in detail in this chapter. For each new proposal the report sets out:
 - the name of the existing community areas which constitute the proposed amended new communities;
 - a brief description of the existing community arrangements in terms of the number of electors and warding arrangements;
 - the composition of the proposed community arrangements;
 - a table which sets out the proposed community/town council arrangements; and
 - a map of the proposed community and/or community ward.

ABERTILLERY & LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

2. The current community council arrangements in Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council consist of a total electorate of 11,305 and is represented by 19 community councillors.

COMMUNITY WARD	ELECTORATE 1 DECEMBER 2025	NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS
Aberbeeg	1,711	3
Abertillery	2,988	5
Six Bells	1,695	3
Cwmtillery	3,348	5
Llanhilleth	1,563	3

Representations

3. The Council received 1 representation concerning the community of Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council.

Community ward boundary proposals

4. The council's Task and Finish group proposes to apply 2 changes to Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council. The council's Task and Finish group is of the view that these proposals provide for more effective and convenient local government
5. The council's Task and Finish group proposes to abolish the two community wards of Aberbeeg and Llanhilleth and form a new single community ward utilising the 2 areas. The existing boundaries will be used to form the new community ward.
6. As a result of this proposal, the projected 5-year forecast electorate of the new community ward would be 3,337.
7. The council's Task and Finish group proposes to abolish the two community wards of Abertillery and Six Bells and form a new single community ward utilising the 2 areas. The existing boundaries will be used to form the new community ward.
8. As a result of this proposal, the projected 5-year forecast electorate of the new community ward would be 4,764.
9. There are no proposals to change the existing community ward boundary of the Cwmtillery community ward, however, the projected 5-year forecast electorate of the community ward would be 3,382.
10. The above proposals will mirror the existing principal councils' electoral wards.

Proposed Names

11. The council's Task and Finish group proposes to name the new community ward Aberbeeg and Llanhilleth and retain the existing English names and the Welsh community names of Aberbîg a Llanhilledd.
12. The council's Task and Finish group proposes to name the new community ward Abertillery and Six Bells and retain the existing English names and the Welsh community names of Abertyleri a Six Bells.
13. The council's Task and Finish group proposes to retain the existing English community ward name of Cwmtillery and the Welsh community ward name of Cwmtylleri.

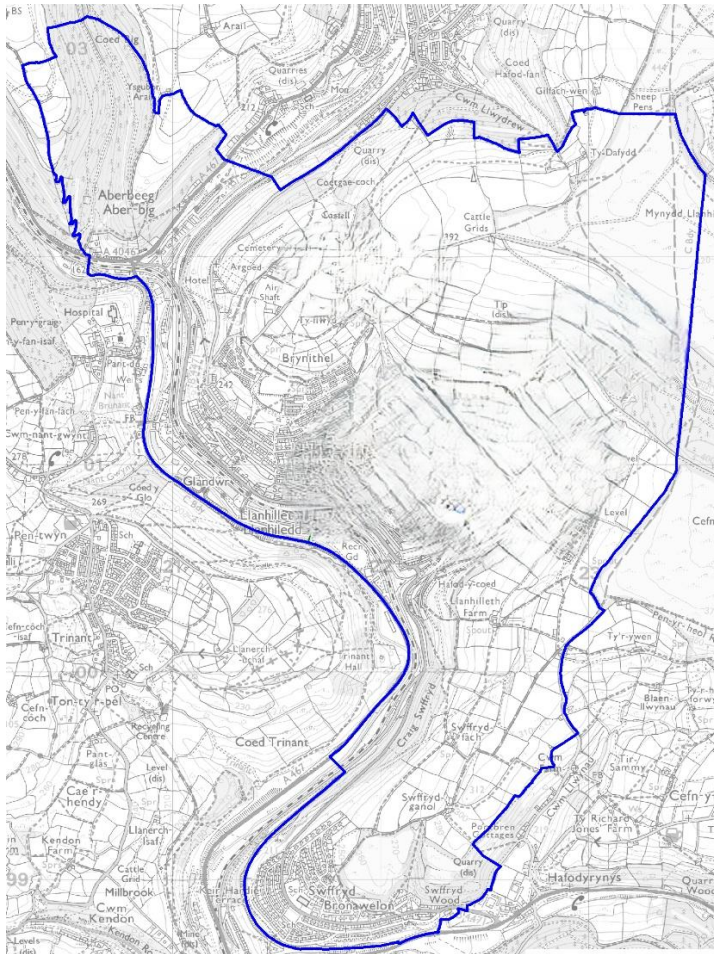
Community Council electoral arrangements

14. The proposed community council arrangements for Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council will consist of a total projected 5-year forecast electorate of 11,483 and be represented by 17 community councillors.
15. The council's Task and Finish group is required to consider the consequential changes to the community council electoral arrangements that would occur following these proposals. The Council's proposed electoral arrangements for the community council can be seen below:

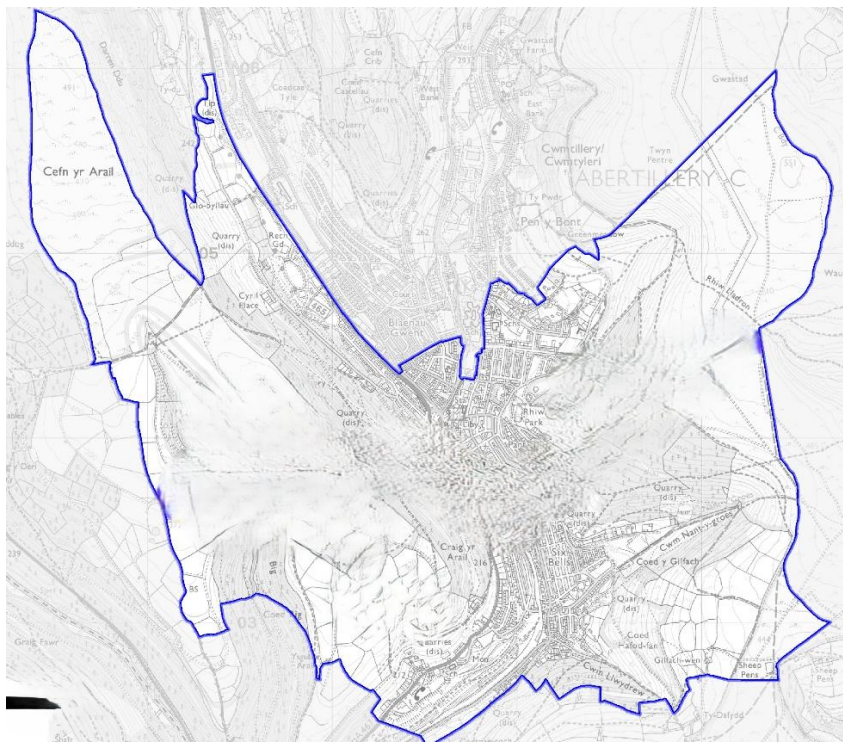
COMMUNITY WARD	Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council							
	Existing				Proposed			
COMMUNITY WARD	ELECTORS	COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS	ELECTORS PER COUNCILLOR	VARIANCE	ELECTORS	COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS	ELECTORS PER COUNCILLOR	VARIANCE
Aberbeeg	1,711	3	570	-12%	-	-	-	-
Abertillery	2,988	5	598	-8%	-	-	-	-
Six Bells	1,695	3	565	-13%	-	-	-	-
Cwmtillery	3,348	5	670	3%	3,382	5	676	4%
Llanhilleth	1,563	3	521	-20%				
Aberbeeg and Llanhilleth	-	-	-	-	3,337	5	667	3%
Abertillery and Six Bells	-	-	-	-	4,764	7	680	5%
	11,305	19	595	-8%	11,483	17	675	4%

16. The council's Task and Finish group has proposed a council membership of 17, which is a decrease of 2 members from the existing arrangements and is in line with the Council Size Policy which would entitle the community to between 15 and 18 community councillors. The council's Task and Finish group believes the new arrangements would improve the level of effective and convenient local government in the area.

Proposed new Community Ward – Aberbeeg and Llanhilleth



Proposed new Community Ward – Abertillery and Six Bells



BRYNMAWR TOWN COUNCIL

17. The current community council arrangements in Brynmawr Town Council consist of a total electorate of 3,909 and is represented by 16 community councillors.

COMMUNITY WARD	ELECTORATE 1 DECEMBER 2025	NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS
Brynmawr North	1,831	8
Brynmawr South	2,078	8

Representations

18. The Council received 2 representations concerning the community of Brynmawr Town Council.

Community ward boundary proposals

19. The council's Task and Finish group proposes to apply 1 change to Brynmawr Town Council. The council's Task and Finish group is of the view that these proposals provide for more effective and convenient local government
20. The council's Task and Finish group proposes to abolish the two community wards of Brynmawr North and Brynmawr South and form a new single community ward utilising the 2 areas. The existing boundaries will be used to form the new community ward.
21. As a result of this proposal, the projected 5-year forecast electorate of the new community ward would be 3,944.
22. The above proposal will mirror the existing principal councils' electoral ward.

Proposed Names

23. The council's Task and Finish group proposes to name the new community ward Brynmawr and retain the existing English name and the Welsh community name of Bryn Mawr.

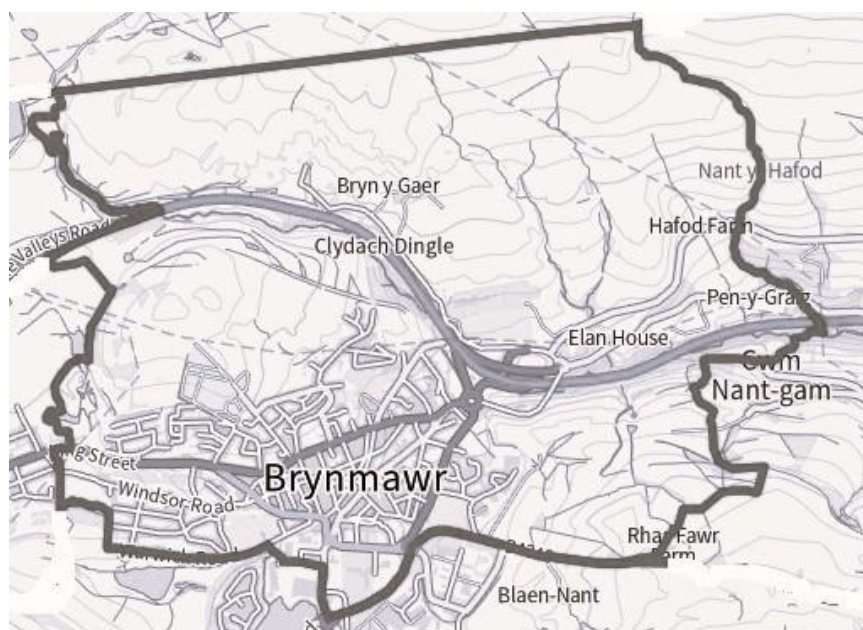
Community Council electoral arrangements

24. The proposed community council arrangements for Brynmawr Town Council will consist of a total projected 5-year forecast electorate of 3,944 and be represented by 7 community councillors.
25. The council's Task and Finish group is required to consider the consequential changes to the community council electoral arrangements that would occur following these proposals. The Council's proposed electoral arrangements for the community council can be seen below:

COMMUNITY WARD	Brynmawr Town Council							
	Existing				Proposed			
	ELECTORS	COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS	ELECTORS PER COUNCILLOR	VARIANCE	ELECTORS	COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS	ELECTORS PER COUNCILLOR	VARIANCE
Brynmawr North	1,831	8	229	-65%	-	-	-	-
Brynmawr South	2,078	8	260	-60%	-	-	-	-
Brynmawr					3,944	7	563	-13%
	3,909	16	244	-63%	3,944	7	563	-13%

26. The council's Task and Finish group has proposed a council membership of 7, which is a decrease of 9 members from the existing arrangements and is in line with the Council Size Policy which would entitle the community to 7 community councillors. The council's Task and Finish group believes the new arrangements would improve the level of effective and convenient local government in the area.

Proposed new Community Ward – Brynmawr



NANTYGLO & BLAINA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

27. The current community council arrangements in Nantyglo & Blaina Community Council consist of a total electorate of 6,627 and is represented by 16 community councillors.

COMMUNITY WARD	ELECTORATE 1 DECEMBER 2025	NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS
Nantyglo	3,240	8
Blaina	3,387	8

Representations

28. The Council received 6 representations concerning the community of Nantyglo & Blaina Community Council.

Community ward boundary proposals

29. There are no proposals to change the existing community ward boundaries of Nantyglo and Blaina community council, however, the projected 5-year forecast electorate of the Nantyglo community ward would be 3,279 and Blaina community ward would be 3,454

Proposed Names

30. The council's Task and Finish group proposes to retain the existing English community ward names of Nantyglo and Blaina and the Welsh community ward names of Nant-y-glo and Blaenau.

Community Council electoral arrangements

31. The proposed community council arrangements for Nantyglo & Blaina Community Council will consist of a total projected 5-year forecast electorate of 6,733 and be represented by 10 community councillors. The Council's proposed electoral arrangements for the community council can be seen below:

COMMUNITY WARD	Nantyglo & Blaina Community Council							
	Existing				Proposed			
	ELECTORS	COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS	ELECTORS PER COUNCILLOR	VARIANCE	ELECTORS	COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS	ELECTORS PER COUNCILLOR	VARIANCE
Nantyglo	3,240	8	405	-38%	3,279	5	656	0%
Blaina	3,387	8	423	-35%	3,454	5	691	6%
	6,627	16	414	-36%	6,733	10	673	4%

32. The council's Task and Finish group has proposed a council membership of 10, which is a decrease of 6 members from the existing arrangements and is in line with the Council Size Policy which would entitle the community to between 9 and 12 community councillors. The council's Task and Finish group believes the new arrangements would improve the level of effective and convenient local government in the area.

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

33. The current community council arrangements in Tredegar Town Council consist of a total electorate of 11,139 and is represented by 18 community councillors.

COMMUNITY WARD	ELECTORATE 1 DECEMBER 2025	NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS
Central & West	3,989	8
Georgetown	3,062	4
Sirhowy	4,088	6

Representations

34. The Council did not receive any representations concerning the community of Tredegar Town Council.

Community ward boundary proposals

35. There are no proposals to change the existing community ward boundaries of Tredegar Town Council, however, the projected 5-year forecast electorate of the Central & West community ward would be 4,053, Georgetown community ward would be 3,105 and Sirhowy community ward would be 4,179.

Proposed Names

36. The council's Task and Finish group proposes to retain the existing English community ward names of Central & West, Georgetown and Sirhowy and the Welsh community ward names of Canol a Gorllewin, Georgetown and Sirhywi.

Community Council electoral arrangements

37. The proposed community council arrangements for Tredegar Town Council will consist of a total projected 5-year forecast electorate of 11,337 and be represented by 17 community councillors. The Council's proposed electoral arrangements for the community council can be seen below:

COMMUNITY WARD	Tredegar Town Council							
	Existing				Proposed			
COMMUNITY WARD	ELECTORS	COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS	ELECTORS PER COUNCILLOR	VARIANCE	ELECTORS	COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS	ELECTORS PER COUNCILLOR	VARIANCE
Central & West	3,989	8	499	-23%	4,053	6	676	4%
Georgetown	3,062	4	766	18%	3,105	5	621	-5%
Sirhowy	4,088	6	681	5%	4,179	6	697	7%
	11,139	18	619	-5%	11,337	17	667	3%

38. The council's Task and Finish group has proposed a council membership of 17, which is a decrease of 1 member from the existing arrangements and is in line with the Council Size Policy which would entitle the community to between 15 and 18 community councillors. The council's Task and Finish group believes the new arrangements would improve the level of effective and convenient local government in the area.

EBBW VALE

39. There is currently no community council for Ebbw Vale but as part of this review, the boundaries of the communities in Ebbw Vale have been reviewed. The current communities are;

COMMUNITY	ELECTORATE 1 DECEMBER 2025
Badminton	2,637
Beaufort	2,071
Cwm	3,168
Ebbw Vale North	3,394
Ebbw Vale South	3,019
Garnlydan	533
Rassau	2,444

Representations

40. The Council did not receive any representations concerning the communities in Ebbw Vale.

Community boundary proposals

41. The council's Task and Finish group proposes to reduce the number of Communities in Ebbw Vale from 7 to 5.

42. The council's Task and Finish group proposes to abolish the two communities of Badminton and Beaufort and form a new single community utilising the 2 areas. The existing boundaries will be used to form the new community.

43. As a result of this proposal, the projected 5-year forecast electorate of the new community would be 4,666.

44. The council's Task and Finish group proposes to abolish the two communities of Rassau and Garnlydan and form a new single community utilising the 2 areas. The existing boundaries will be used to form the new community.

45. As a result of this proposal, the projected 5-year forecast electorate of the new community would be 2,978.

46. There are no proposals to change the existing community boundaries of Cwm, Ebbw Vale North and Ebbw Vale South. The projected 5-year forecast electorate of the communities would be 3,240 for Cwm, 3,459 for Ebbw Vale North and 3,053 Ebbw Vale South

47. The above proposals will mirror the existing principal councils' electoral wards.

Proposed Names

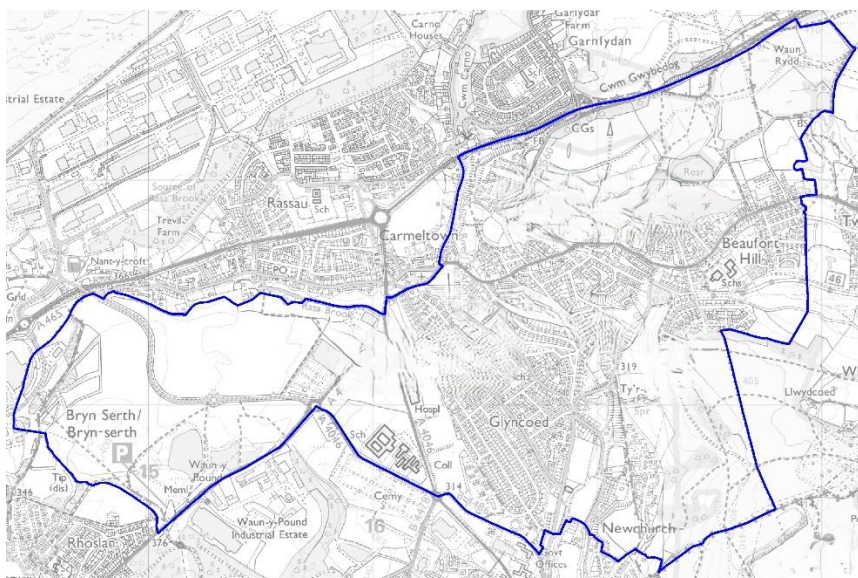
48. The council's Task and Finish group proposes to name the new community Badminton and Beaufort and retain the existing English names and the Welsh community names of Badminton a Cendl.
49. The council's Task and Finish group proposes to name the new community Rassau and Garnlydan and retain the existing English names and the Welsh community names of Rasa a Garnlydan.
50. The council's Task and Finish group proposes to retain the existing English community name of Cwm and the Welsh community name of Cwm.
51. The council's Task and Finish group proposes to retain the existing English community name of Ebbw Vale North and the Welsh community name of Gogledd Glynebwy
52. The council's Task and Finish group proposes to retain the existing English community name of Ebbw Vale South and the Welsh community name of De Glynebwy

Community electoral arrangements

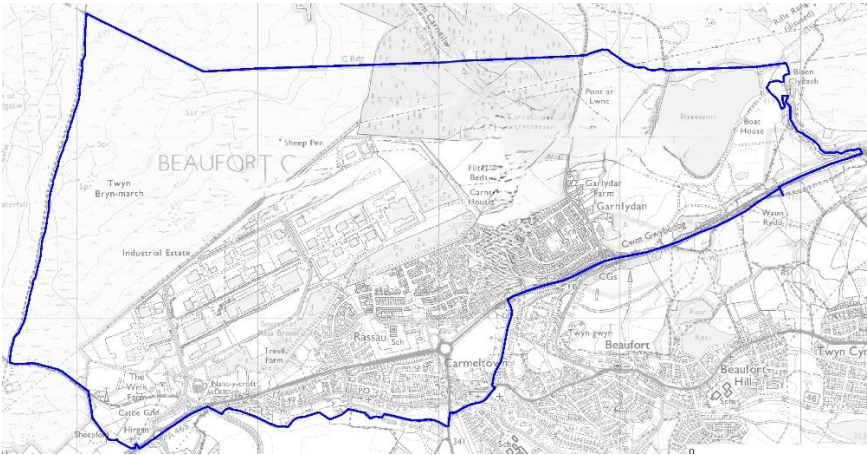
53. The Council's proposed community arrangements for Ebbw Vale can be seen below:

COMMUNITY	ELECTORATE 5 YEAR FORECAST
Beaufort & Badminton	4,666
Cwm	3,240
Ebbw Vale North	3,459
Ebbw Vale South	3,053
Rassau & Garnlydan	2,978

Proposed new Community – Badminton and Beaufort



Proposed new Community – Rassau and Garnlydan



Appendix 1 Existing Community Arrangements

COMMUNITY / TOWN COUNCIL NAME	COMMUNITY WARD	ELECTORS	COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS	ELECTORS PER COUNCILLOR	VARIANCE
Abertillery & Llanhilleth	Aberbeeg	1,711	3	570	-12%
	Abertillery	2,988	5	598	-8%
	Six Bells	1,695	3	565	-13%
	Cwmtillery	3,348	5	670	3%
	Llanhilleth	1,563	3	521	-20%
Brynmawr	Brynmawr North	1,831	8	229	-65%
	Brynmawr South	2,078	8	260	-60%
Nantyglo & Blaina	Nantyglo	3,240	8	405	-38%
	Blaina	3,387	8	423	-35%
Tredegar	Central & West	3,989	8	499	-23%
	Georgetown	3,062	4	766	18%
	Sirhowy	4,088	6	681	5%

Appendix 2 Proposed Community Arrangements

COMMUNITY / TOWN COUNCIL NAME	COMMUNITY WARD	ELECTORS	COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS	ELECTORS PER COUNCILLOR	VARIANCE
Abertillery & Llanhilleth	Aberbeeg & Llanhilleth	3,337	5	667	3%
	Abertillery & Six Bells	4,764	7	680	5%
	Cwmtillery	3,382	5	676	4%
Brynmawr	Brynmawr	3,944	7	563	-13%
Nantyglo & Blaina	Nantyglo	3,279	5	656	0%
	Blaina	3,454	5	691	6%
Tredegar	Central & West	4,053	6	676	4%
	Georgetown	3,105	5	621	-5%
	Sirhowy	4,179	6	697	7%

Appendix 3 Representations Received from Initial Consultation



Comments and feedback received by the Election Office in regard to the initial consultation period for the Electoral Arrangements Review

Comments received by email from Clerk to Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council:

Our council did discuss the review at its meeting on Wednesday 25 Feb. It has agreed that we should align our current 5 Community Council Wards to the 3 County Borough Wards.

Comments received by email from Clerk to Brynmawr Town Council:

During a current Full Council Meeting I presented members with the Electoral Arrangements for Brynmawr. Please find below members opinions with regards to the Wards of Brynmawr Town and the number of Councillors:

Brynmawr operates in practice as a single, cohesive town. Residents share services, schools, community organisations, retail provision and social infrastructure. The lived experience of the community does not align with the current administrative division between Brynmawr North and Brynmawr South.

The continuation of this split risks introducing unnecessary complexity for residents in understanding representation and accessing support. It may also create an artificial distinction within what is, in reality, a naturally connected community.

In light of this, Members would respectfully propose that consideration be given to the following:

1. The creation of a single unified Brynmawr ward

Bringing Brynmawr together as one ward would:

- *More accurately reflect community identity*
- *Improve clarity of representation for residents*
- *Support stronger, more cohesive local governance*
- *Avoid the continuation of divisions that are administrative rather than community-led*

2. Retention of the current number of Town Councillors

It is important that any structural change does not result in a reduction in representation. All Town Councillors serve on a voluntary basis (no member of Brynmawr Town Council receives any payments) and maintaining the existing number of councillors will:

- *Support continued accessibility for residents*
- *Protect community engagement capacity*
- *Strengthen the sustainability of local democratic participation*
- *Ensure resilience for the future of voluntary public service*

This approach would simplify governance arrangements without increasing cost, while maintaining strong and accountable representation.

Overall, a unified ward structure would better reflect how Brynmawr functions as a community today and would support effective and convenient local government in line with the objectives of the review.

Comments received by email from Clerk to Brynmawr Town Council:

Members have forwarded one more valid point that they would like to be taken into consideration regarding only (7) members sitting on the Town Council is that if some members are working or cannot attend every meeting due to other commitments this could result in no quorum or very few members to make decisions on the agendered items which would need more than 3-4 members opinions.

Members would apricate you factoring this into the review process as well as the points sent on 26 February:

Comments received via email from member of public:

Ref / Blaina

The number of members of Nantyglo & Blaina community council need to be reduced dramatically, and this is due to many of them being un-elected members of the council due to the lack of numbers of people standing at the election time, so people end up being co-opted on which un-democratic. Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council do little with their precept monies for our area, most of the money goes to paying for a clerk and a deputy clerk, otherwise all we see are Christmas light and some plant pots in our area provided by the Town Council. We do not have value for our monies. In fact I would like to achieve Blaina Town Council dissolved and any funds they have put into youth services for the area this is including the £38, 000 they received for sale of Salem chapel Blaina

Comments received via email from Community Councillor David Wright:

I have been on the Council for about a year now and can see how many things we do. I would like to do more for Nantyglo and I am worried that if we go down to 10 members it will be more difficult to do things or worse it may be impossible as we wont have enough people to do things properly

Comments received via email from Community Councillor David Finch:

I am a newly appointed town councillor with Nantyglo and Blaina town council. We have been given information regarding reducing the number of councilors to 10 from 16. I have questions and comments regarding this reduction.

1. What difference does it make, how many there are? I am a volunteer and give my time for the local community that I live in (Nantyglo).

2. If the reduction came into place, who would leave? last in- first out?

3. How are the numbers of people in each area decided? Is it on voters, those over 18? Those on the electoral register? Many are not on the register but can still vote, how are those counted? Also which area is Lakeside counted as, Nantyglo or Brynmawr? The boundaries have been disputed for several years?

The town council undertakes valuable work within the local community, this is one of the main reasons I wanted to become a town councilor, to help my fellow residents thrive in the community. In the past few months we have provided over 1000 local school children with selection boxes at Christmas, planted bulbs in planters which are now starting to brighten up the area, helped the local food bank and we have recently purchased over 1000 easter eggs which will be donated to young children who may not receive anything if we did not provide it.

We recently had a presentation regarding "The Deal". Much of the deal was about working with volunteers and local groups, giving them help to achieve their goals, and now you want to reduce the number of volunteers. This seems a contradiction.

I would like to state the case that as volunteers, we bring value, commitment and reassurance that someone is looking out for residents. To reduce this number would reduce the excellent community work that myself and other town councillors undertake.

Comments received via email from Community Councillor Mark Evans:

I am writing to formally oppose the proposal by Blaenau Gwent Council to reduce the number of members within the Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council from 16 to 10.

While I understand this proposal is based on the Electoral Register, I believe it overlooks the significant value the current 16 members provide to our community. For the first time, we have a council with full membership, representing a diverse range of ages and perspectives. These members work tirelessly for the local area, and reducing their numbers would inevitably diminish the impact and reach of the council's initiatives.

I strongly urge you to reconsider this reduction and maintain the current membership level to ensure our community remains well-served and represented.

Thank you for your time and for considering my concerns.

Comments received via email from Community Councillor Glyn Morvan:

With regard to the above on-going review, I wish to put on record my objection to the proposed reduction of the elected councillors representing Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council.

The proposal laid out before us is that the total number of councillors will decrease from the current 16 to 10 which will equate to 5 for Nantyglo and 5 for Blaina.

I understand that reviews are necessary but the proposed size of the reduction for our council appears to be excessive to say the least.

As a council we have always strived to provide a first-class service to all residents of the two towns we serve. This service can only be achieved if we have the required resources available to maintain the high standards we have set ourselves.

It has been noted by other reviews of late that there is a crisis of democratic health within our communities and I would submit that the current proposals would dramatically add to this crisis.

Part of the process used to determine the level of council representation is the number of people eligible to vote. As we know the age you are allowed to vote at local council elections in Wales has been reduced to 16yrs. Have these new voters been included in your calculations?

Also, there are plans all be it in their early stages, to develop the old Nantyglo School site. If this plan goes ahead then again, the electorate in the catchment area of Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council will significantly increase as will the responsibilities of the of the council to these individuals. If the proposed reduction of councillors goes ahead then the ability of the council to serve the local area appropriately would be significantly impaired.

The proposal as it stands appears to drastically erode the democratically elected bottom layer of local government. I would therefore ask that the proposal be reassessed and serious consideration be given to retaining the number of councillors for Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council at 16. If it is felt that this is not possible then the number be increased from 10 to a minimum of 14.

Comments received via email from Community Councillor Sue Howlett:

I am writing as a Town Councilor for Nantyglo and Blaina and wanted to voice my concerns regarding cutting the Town Council seats from 16 to 10.

With the introduction of 'The Deal', which I am sure has been welcomed to promote more inclusion from residents and making Blaenau Gwent a better community for everyone. But we can only do that by reaching out to these communities, which is at ground level what our local councillors do.

My concern is, that after living in Nantyglo for the last 24 years, I can see why it is amongst the 10% most deprived areas according to the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2025.

As councillors we have to work hard to get our local communities to take part and contribute, and to encourage them to connect, which are some of the principles of 'The Deal'. Some already see us as their voice for their community, some don't but mainly because they don't understand what we do and how we can help, our aim is to change that and make the Town Council more visible in our community.

We want more engagement with communities as from what I can see 'The Deal' is built around that, I fear that if you reduce the number of council seats, you will remove our capability to do that.

Therefore, I would like to voice my objection to the reduction in Town Council seats for Nantyglo and Blaina.