

## **FINAL PROPOSALS**

### **Community No. R07 - GLASBURY**

#### **Introduction**

1. The present community of Glasbury is situated at the southern tip of Radnorshire and is bounded to the west, south and east by the river Wye, an important natural boundary in this area. The landscape rises out of valley floor of the Wye to the higher land of Ffynnon Gynydd common and the Begwns in the very north of the Community. The large village of Glasbury as designated by the Unitary Development Plan is bisected by the river Wye, consequently parts lie within Radnorshire and parts within Brecknockshire. However, the historic core of the village lies in Radnorshire, on the north bank of the Wye adjacent to the A483 Brecon to Hereford road. Just outside the settlement of Glasbury, on the B4350 which links Glasbury with Boughrood, is the small village of Cwmbach. Other small villages identified in the Unitary Development plan in the community are Boughrood, Llowes, and the more upland Ffynon Gynydd. The remainder of the population lives in scattered farms and dwellings and in the rural settlements of Boughrood Brest and Llanstephan.

2. The community has a population of 902, an electorate of 754 (2005) and a council of 12 members. The community is warded: Boughrood with 284 electors and three councillors; Glasbury with 283 and five; Llanstephan with 76 and two, and Llowes with 111 and two. The precept required for 2005 is £4,000.00 representing a Council Tax Band D equivalent of £8.34

3. In the 1982 Review, there were various proposals to amalgamate the smaller communities of Radnorshire, and the arrangements that were adopted at that time best reflected community loyalties and social connections in this area. It was proposed to merge the then community of Glasbury, which had a council, with the then communities of Boughrood, Llanstephan, and most of the then community of Llowes, which did not have community councils but that were represented by their community meetings. Considered at length was the issue of the then district boundary between Brecknock and Radnorshire, which serves to divide the large village of Glasbury. The majority of consultees agreed that the river Wye formed a 'natural' and 'easily definable' boundary in this area and that no alteration should be made: a view that the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales endorsed.

4. The Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales therefore made its final recommendations for a community council of twelve members with the following warding arrangement: Boughrood with 141 electors (1978) and three councillors; Glasbury with 256 electors and five councillors, Llanstephan with 68 electors and two councillors, and Llowes with 90 electors and two councillors.

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

5. No representations have been received for this community.

### **Assessment**

6. The electorate of Glasbury has increased from 555 in 1978 to 754 in 2005. The settlements of Glasbury and Boughrood have experienced considerable housing development in recent years and the Powys Unitary Development Plan allocates one site at the large village of Glasbury for six dwellings and one site in the small village of Boughrood for six dwellings. In the small village of Cwm Bach one site has been allocated for eight dwellings, and in the small village of Ffynon Gynydd, two sites have been identified for 11 dwellings. Some of these dwellings have already been built and have therefore had their effect upon the electorate. There may also be further opportunities for infill development and opportunities for affordable housing development adjacent to each of the settlement development boundaries in accordance with Policy HP8. There are also opportunities for affordable housing development in the rural settlements of Boughrood Brest and Llanstephan 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 consider that the electorate will rise to about 800, which would suggest an entitlement to nine or ten councillors in accordance with Table 7 – Guide to Allocation of Councillors to Community Councils.

7. We have given careful consideration to the question of whether this community should continue to be divided into four wards. We are required to apply the criteria in Schedule 11 of 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. The electorates of two of the existing wards are relatively small: Llanstephan – 76, and Llowes – 111; this in itself leads us to conclude that separate ward elections would be largely meritless in each of these wards. In both wards, electors travel outside their wards to vote at Llyswen and Glasbury respectively. While Llowes has been designated a small village in the Unitary Development plan, Llanstephan is only designated as a rural settlement, and both settlements source the majority of their facilities and amenities from their neighbouring villages. On balance, however, we do consider that it remains desirable for areas of this community to be separately represented on the community council; the western side of this Wye valley community looks to its main local settlement at Boughrood, while the eastern side looks to Glasbury, and each of these villages provides its respective areas with a good range of community services and facilities. We are therefore proposing a two-ward arrangement for this community, by merging wards along the natural east-west divide in this community. The electorates

and resultant councillor entitlements between our two proposed wards would be as follows:

	Glasbury (incorporating Llowes)	Boughrood (incorporating Llanstephan)
Electorate	394	360
Percentage of total Electorate	52.25	47.7
Councillor entitlement (9)	4.70	4.29
Councillor entitlement (10)	5.22	4.77

8. Schedule 11(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 requires us, in fixing the number of community councils to be elected for each ward, to have regard to any change in the number or distribution of the local government electors of the community which is likely to take place. The growth of the electorate in this community has been considerable but quite evenly spread. This table suggests that the most appropriate allocation of councillors between our proposed wards in the community would be 5 : 5, which would serve to secure a good parity of representation across the different parts of this community.

### **Draft Proposals**

9. We propose that there should be a Community of Glasbury comprising the present community of that name;

The community should have a council of ten members;

The community should be warded as follows.

(Ward)	Electorate	No of Councillors	Electors per Councillor
Boughrood	360	5	72
Glasbury	394	5	79

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

10. A form of submissions has been received from Glasbury Community Council supporting the Draft Proposals.

## Final Proposals

11. We propose that there should be a Community of Glasbury comprising the present community of that name;

The community should have a council of ten members;

The community should be warded as follows.

(Ward)	Electorate	No of Councillors	Electors per Councillor
Boughrood	360	5	72
Glasbury	394	5	79