



CYNGOR CYMUNED GWAUN CAE GURWEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Boundary Commission for Wales

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Tuesday, 27th September 2022

REFERENCE: PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW

Wards Effected: Alltwen, Cwmllynfell and Ystalyfera, Godre'r Graig, Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen and Lower Brynamman, Pontardawe, Rhos & Trebanos.

To Whom it May Concern,

It has been proposed the above listed wards, collectively known as the Upper Amman and Swansea Valleys, be moved from the Neath Parliamentary Constituency to the Brecon and Radnorshire Parliamentary Constituency.

It is the feeling of this Council that this would have a negative impact on all members of our community, by:

- Creating huge inconvenience to the individuals and communities affected.
- Causing significant geographical difficulties, which would be a result of Parliamentary representation being placed in Brecon and Radnorshire's already huge and land locked region.
- Diminishing every individual's right to convenient access to Parliamentary representation. Indeed, it isn't possible to get to the current Member of Parliament for Brecon and Radnorshire's Constituency Office and back again in a single day via public transport. This is particularly concerning as many members of our community are dependent on public transport.
- Severing long held ties with other valley communities within the Neath area.
- Moving Parliamentary representation outside of the geographical boundaries of the Parliamentary Constituency which serves these valleys, thereby creating a barrier to ease of access to critical services.
- Placing Parliamentary representation outside the boundaries of the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and all Town and Community Councils that serve these wards, again creating a barrier to ease of access and familiarity.
- Causing confusion by moving these wards completely outside the constituency of Neath where they are still represented by Senedd.



- Breaking the communication links that exist between Parliamentary, Senedd, Local Authority and Health Boards, at least causing significant inconvenience to individuals and potentially causing actual harm.
- Cutting links with many West Glamorgan regional partnerships both within the statutory and voluntary sectors. These partnerships serve these wards well and promote community cohesion and integrated provision.
- Excluding people from the preserved County of West Glamorgan which dates back to the ancient County of Glamorgan. West Glamorgan remains a preserved County for H.M Lieutenancy and Shrievalty. These functions feature prominently in the civic life of these valley communities and they promote and encourage the voluntary sector and individual volunteering.

These valley communities share a regional history, lifestyle, culture, heritage, traditions, language, industrial past and socio-economic background. The people of these communities would feel targeted and ostracised by being excluded from their natural home.

It is the firm belief of this Council and the communities it represents that the wards of the Upper Swansea and Amman Valleys should remain where they belong... within the Neath Constituency for all political representation at all levels of government.

Yours Sincerely,

Cllr. Sarah Thomas

CHAIR – GWAUN CAE GURWEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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