Community Reviews under the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2025 – Initial Draft Proposals

Conwy County Borough Council
September 2025

Foreword

Draft Proposals for the Communities of Conwy County Borough Council

This report presents our draft proposals for the communities within the county borough of Conwy. The review has been carried out in accordance with the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 and the Council's Terms of Reference.

Fairness is a central principle embedded in the legislation and has guided the Council throughout this process. In line with our statutory obligations, we have also considered future developments and obtained five-year elector projections.

In formulating these proposals, we have taken into account local connections and the views of those advocating for the retention of existing boundaries. Every representation submitted has been carefully reviewed. However, these considerations have had to be balanced against other statutory factors and constraints, particularly the need to ensure that communities continue to reflect local identities and support effective and convenient local governance. Where changes to community or ward boundaries are proposed, the Council has also considered the importance of electoral parity and democratic fairness for all electors.

We appreciate the contributions made by Community and Town Councils, as well as all individuals and organisations who submitted representations.

We welcome any feedback or views you may wish to share on these draft proposals.

Rhun ap Gareth

Chief Executive

Community Reviews under the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013

Draft Proposals Report

Contents

1 Summary of Draft Proposals

1.1 As a principal council, Conwy County Borough Council is undertaking Community Reviews under Sections 25 and 31 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 ("the Act"). The Terms of Reference for the review can be found on the Conwy website.

1.2 Conwy proposes revisions to the structure of communities and community wards to ensure that local identities are preserved and that the arrangements continue to support effective and convenient local governance throughout the principal council area.

1.3 The council has proposed amendments to the boundaries of 3 community wards within the principal council area. As a result of these boundary changes, corresponding adjustments to the electoral arrangements of the affected communities have also been recommended.

2. Council Size

2.1 The table below sets out the Community/Town Council ratio of councillors to electors:

Electors (up to)	Councillors	Electors (up to)	Councillors
300	7	13,000	17
500	8	15,000	18
750	9	17,000	19
1,000	10	19,000	20
1,500	11	20,000	21
2,000	12	21,000	22
4,000	13	23,000	23
6,000	14	25,000	24
9,000	15	25,000+	25
12,000	16		

3. Undertaking the Review

3.1 Conwy County Borough Council has conducted a wide consultation:

- Seeking the opinions and recommendations of community councils, the public and professional bodies and associations.
- Conwy County Borough Council has promoted this Review via the Council website, and has also provided all Town/Community clerks with the relevant Public Notices to advertise the Review within local communities.
- Conwy County Borough Council has also contacted stakeholders directly to invite them to submit proposals and recommendations.

Stakeholders:
Residents of Conwy County Borough
Chief Executive, Conwy County Borough Council
Town and Community Councils in County Borough of Conwy
Conwy County Borough Council Members
Democracy & Boundary Commission Cymru (DBCC)
Welsh Government, Scrutiny, Democracy and Participation
Janet Finch-Saunders, MS
Mark Isherwood, MS
Darren Millar, MS
Samuel Rowlands, MS
Carolyn Thomas, MS
Secretary, North Wales Association of Local Councils
North Wales Deaf Association
North Wales Society for the Blind
Disability Wales
Conwy Voluntary Access Group

3.2 The Council agreed the Terms of Reference to govern the review on 22 May 2025.

4. Consideration of Submissions

4.1 Submissions were received from:

Abergele Town Council
Cllr Anne McCaffrey, Conwy County Borough Council
Betws yn Rhos & Llanelian Community Council
Cllr Harry Saville, Llandudno Town Council
Llanddulas & Rhyd Y Foel Community Council
Llandudno Town Council
Cllr Louise Emery, Llandudno Town Council
Samuel Rowlands MS

5. Analysis and Draft Recommendations

5.1 Abergele Town Council

5.2 The Council received 1 representation for Abergele, from the Town Council. Arrangements for Abergele Town Council which consists of 4 wards:

Community Ward	Electorate	5 Year Electorate Forecast	No of Councillors
Abergele Pensarn	1925	2109	3

Pentre Mawr	3004	3081	6
Gele	3757	4093	6
Llan San Sior / St George	209	208	1

5.3 Abergele Town Council Response

- The Town Council would recommend that no change to the Abergele wards are made.
- 16 Councillors for the size of the council is adequate to ensure that the Council can facilitate its sub committees. Even with 16 members it can be difficult to ensure membership at all sub committees.
- There is a limit to how much community work a single Councillor is able to achieve as an individual. If the size of the area is made larger with a greater number of residents to service, then this could be difficult for them to serve.
- If the area size increases and the number of Councillors reduce, this could be detrimental to the whole of the community.
- The existing Town Council wards should be retained in order to ensure that the smaller areas have a voice.
- As an area that is currently identified under the LDP for substantial housing, if the number of Councillors is reduced then the council could be attempting to service many more residents with very less Councillors, which is unsustainable.
- The Town Council believes that the number or distribution of Local Government electors for the Town is such as to make a single election of Town Councillors impractical or inconvenient because with a mixed area of coastal and rural wards, if they are merged then the needs of both communities could be diluted by mergers. The smallest ward, St George, would be especially affected if it lost its one representative and was encompassed.
- The Town Council are happy with the existing warding arrangements and the town should continue to be separately represented on the Council.
- It is not practical given the diversity of the area to have a single election for this town.
- The status quo should remain as St George, Gele, Pentre Mawr and Pensarn and they are all very individual wards with different demographics in themselves.
- The town is diverse with mixed rural, coastal, retired and families. There is also a difference in the financial brackets of each ward, with Pensarn being on the list for one of the most deprived areas in the county, to St George having affluent area with large properties. If wards were merged, then the voices of each community which are equally as important as each other, would be diluted.
- The Town Council are not proposing any changes to existing boundaries and would recommend the status quo remains as is for the reasons outlined above. The council also considers that the ratio of the Councillors to ward members should remain as is.

5.4 Recommendations

- That the number of Town Councillors remains the same at 16.
- That the Town remains warded.
- That the boundaries remain the same.

5.5 Penmaenmawr Town Council

5.6 The Council received one representation from Cllr Anne McCaffrey.

The arrangements for Penmaenmawr Town Council which consists of 3 wards:

Community Ward	Electorate	5 Year Electorate Forecast	No of Councillors
Capelulo	1236	1286	5
Pant Yr Afon	1559	1592	6
Penmaenan	552	589	2

5.7 Cllr Anne McCaffrey's response:

- Penmaenmawr Town Council is made up of 3 electoral wards:
  Dwygyfychi: Village of Dwygyfylchi & hamlet of Capelulo; Pant yr Afon: Town of Penmenmawr; Penmaenan: Village of Penmaenan.
- There are strong historical reasons for maintaining 3 wards, & there are strong historical & geographical reasons for retaining Dwygyfylchi as a distinct ward as its demographics are very different are the community needs. The Conwy LDP recognises this differences & the importance of avoiding coalescence.
- Retaining Town Cllrs with specific accountability to/for each of the 3 distinct wards is important and essential to ensuring diverse needs are all considered.
- Not proposing change, simply advocating for the maintenance of the current arrangements.

5.8 Recommendation – Penmaenmawr

- That the number of Town Councillors remains the same at 13.
- That the Town remains warded.
- That the boundaries remain the same.

5.9 Betws yn Rhos and Llanelian Community Council

5.10 The Council received one representation from Betws yn Rhos and Llanelian Community Council.

5.11 Arrangements for Betws yn Rhos and Llanelian Community Council which consists of 2 wards:

Community Ward	Electorate	5 Year Electorate Forecast	No of Councillors
Betws yn Rhos	555	602	6
Llanelian yn Rhos	318	323	4

5.12 Betws yn Rhos and Llanelian Community Council's Response

- No change and to maintain the status quo.

5.13 Recommendation

- That the number of Community Councillors remains the same at 10.
- That the community remains warded.
- That the boundaries remain the same.

5.14 Llanddulas & Rhyd Y Foel Community Council

5.15 The Council received one representation from Llanddulas & Rhyd Y Foel Community Council.

5.16 Arrangements for Llanddulas & Rhyd Y Foel Community Council which consists of 2 wards:

Community Ward	Electorate	5 Year Electorate Forecast	No of Councillors
Dulas	1045	1059	8
Rhyd Y Foel	334	335	3

5.17 Llanddulas & Rhyd Y Foel Community Council's Response in summary. Full response can be found in Appendix 1**.**

- **Ward Merger Impact**: In summary, the representation received from the community council states that since merging Llanddulas Ward with the larger Gele Ward at a county borough level, as a smaller rural community they feel increasingly unheard and neglected. There are also concerns relating to a lack of 'voice' and the inability to be heard at a community level, giving examples of a recent planning application and the impact on their community.
- **Communication Failures**: The Community Council feels it is left out of important communications, such as the recent roadworks that disrupted bus services and affected hundreds of residents.

- **Threat to Autonomy**: The Community Council feels any restructuring or merging of the Community Council could result in a loss of local identity and autonomy.
- **Historical Significance**: The Community Council has deep roots and evolved from a ratepayers' association, reflecting the community's commitment to self-representation. The community seeks acknowledgment, fair representation, and the ability to continue serving residents effectively, as it has done since 1983.
- **Proactive Local Governance**: Despite challenges, the Council has actively supported local initiatives, including childcare schemes, youth clubs, dog fouling awareness, and speed monitoring.
- **Core Message**: True local democracy means engaged, responsive representation—not top-down decisions or forced mergers.

5.18 Recommendations:

- That the number of Community Councillors remains the same at 10.
- That the community remains warded.
- That the boundaries remain the same.
- That a letter of explanation be sent to the Community Council to ensure they appreciate the purpose of the statutory review.

5.19 Llandudno Town Council

5.20 The Council received four representations concerning the town of Llandudno. 1 from the Town Council, 1 from Cllr Harry Saville, 1 from Cllr Louise Emery and 1 from Samuel Rowlands MS.

5.21 The Town Council consists of 5 wards:

Community Ward	Electorate	5 Year Electorate Forecast	No of Councillors
Craig y Don	2620	2672	4
Gogarth	2728	2807	4
Mostyn	2675	2806	4
Penrhyn	3840	3768	4
Tudno	3481	3535	4

5.22 Responses – Llandudno Town Council

5.23 Cllr Harry Saville, Cllr Louise Emery, Sam Rowlands MS and Llandudno Town Council responded with:

- The council size table suggests that Llandudno Town Council should have 19 councillors in 2030 based on its predicted electorate (15,588). Llandudno Town Council currently has 20 councillors, with four councillors representing each of the community's five wards. These wards are fairly evenly balanced and providing an

equal number of councillors per ward is convenient for local government. There are several significant housing developments planned for Llandudno that will increase the population of the community.

- The number of electors will likely increase with significant developments likely to come 'online' in Craig y Don, Gogarth and Mostyn wards. These include a proposed development on Abbey Road a proposed development adjacent to Gloddaeth Avenue, the development adjacent to Llandudno Railway Station and the development at Bodafon Fields.
- The expected growth in population is important, and the respondee's expect that the 2030 projected electorate figure of >15,500 to be higher than this. Reasons for this include:
    - That there are several significant housing developments in progress or planned for Llandudno that would increase the electorate of the community. Future expansion and LDP projections are noted by the council.
    - The conversion of former business properties, such as hotels, into residential and the increasing number of second homes in the area, need to be taken into consideration.
    - Proposals to reduce the voting age for electors to 16 thus increasing the electoral register, need to be factored in.
- Whilst the ratio of councillors is based on electorate, consideration should also be given to population size, which is greater. Town Councillors, whilst not directly responsible, are involved in local issues and tourists and tourism to the area. As a holiday resort, the council provides services to more than just the electorate, but to the wider population and visitors.

5.24 Recommendations

- That the number of Town Councillors remains the same at 20.
- That the Town remains warded.
- Based on the feedback from local members, that the boundaries be amended as detailed below to facilitate effective and convenient local government.
- Conwy supports this proposal on the basis that it enhances accessibility and ease of voting for electors. Under the current arrangements, the designated polling station for the new housing development in Mostyn would be the Trinity Centre (indicated by the blue square in Figure 1). However, if the boundary were amended, electors would have improved access to the Ty Hapus Community Centre (indicated by the yellow square in Figure 1), which is considered a more convenient location.

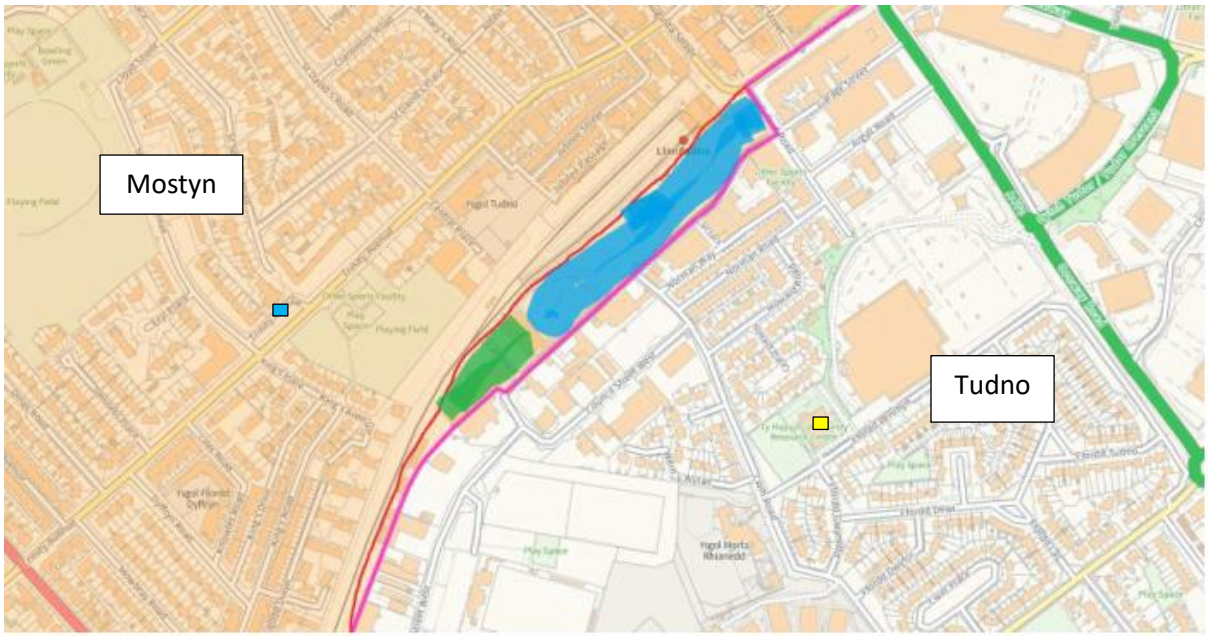
5.25 Proposal 1 – Proposed Boundary Changes to Mostyn and Tudno Ward

- The area shaded blue on the map (Figure 1) below is a significant new housing development (78 dwellings), which will fall within the current Mostyn ward. Access to this development will be via Builders Street, meaning it will be impossible to access the development by road without travelling into the Tudno ward. This is

contrary to the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru's requirements for effective and convenient local government. Many people logically believe this parcel of land falls within the Tudno ward. The area marked green is the Cae Bach industrial estate. At present, half of the estate falls within the Mostyn ward and the other half in the Tudno ward. The estate cannot be accessed without travelling through the Tudno ward. Again, this is not conducive to efficient and convenient local government and many people logically believe this parcel of land falls within the Tudno ward. The railway line is a more obvious and recognisable topographical feature, which would make a more practical ward boundary.

The boundary between the current Mostyn and Tudno wards follows the pink line on the map below. Proposal is to move the boundary to the red line:

Figure 1



5.26 Recommendations – Moving Boundary between Mostyn and Tudno wards

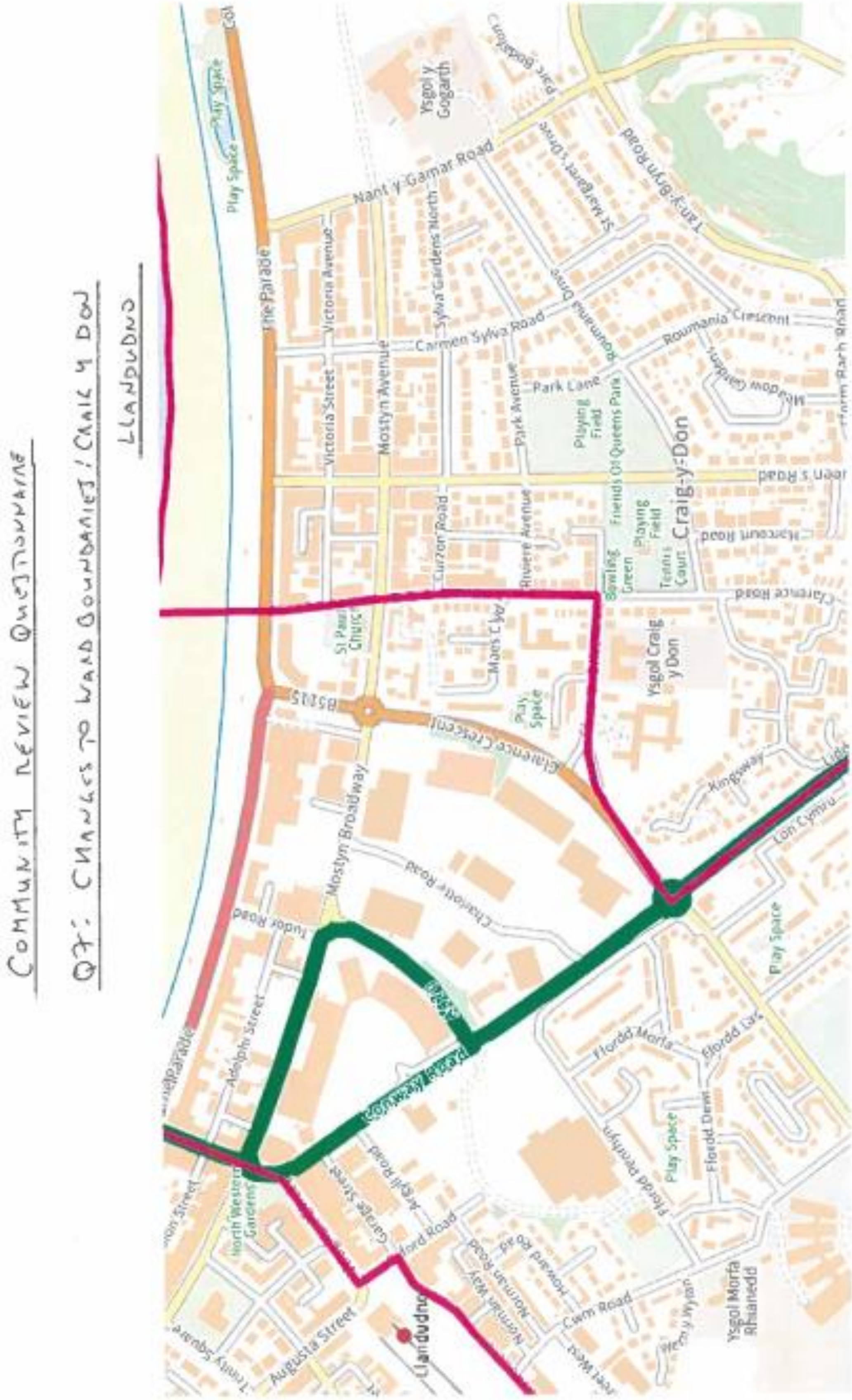
- Move the boundary between the existing Mostyn and Tudno wards from the current location, to the southern edge of the Llandudno Railway Station and the southern edge of the railway line between the Station and Maesdu Bridge, thus increasing the size of Tudno ward.
- Conwy support this proposal as it is related to the accessibility and ease of voting for the elector. As the current boundaries stand, the Mostyn polling station for the new housing development would be the Trinity Centre (blue square on Figure 1), however, if the boundary was moved, then the polling station would be more accessible based at Ty Hapus Community Centre (yellow square on Figure 1)..

5.27 Proposal 2 – Proposed Boundary Change between Craig y Don and Tudno Wards

Llandudno Town Council recommend:

- A re-alignment of the boundary between Craig y Don and Tudno wards, to follow Clarence Crescent rather than Clarence Drive (Figure 2).
- The existing ward boundary is in red on Figure 2. The Town Council considers it would be more logical if it ran from the Links roundabout along Clarence Crescent, on the map in yellow (Figure 3).

Figure 2



COMMUNITY REVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE
Q7: CHANGES TO WARD BOUNDARIES / CRAIG Y DON
LLANDUDNO
The Parade
Play Space
Ysgol y Gogarth
Nant y Gamar Road
Parc Bodafon
Tan-y-Bryn Road
St Margaret's Drive
Victoria Avenue
Sylva Gardens North
Carmen Sylva Road
Roumania Drive
Roumania Crescent
Meadow Gardens
Victoria Street
Mostyn Avenue
Park Avenue
Park Lane
Playing Field
Friends Of Queens Park
Craig-y-Don
Queen's Road
Curzon Road
Rivieré Avenue
Harcourt Road
Bowling Green
Tennis Court
Clarence Road
St Paul's Church
Maes Clyd
Ysgol Craig y Don
B5115
Clarence Crescent
Kingsway
Lon Cymru
Mostyn Broadway
Charlotte Road
Tudor Road
Adelphi Street
Conway Road
Ffordd Morfa
Ffordd Dewi
Ffordd Penrhyn
North Western Gardens
Garage Street
Argyll Road
Augusta Street
Trinity Square
Llandudno
Norman Road
Norman Way
Howard Road
Cwm Road
Ysgol Morfa Rhianedd

Figure 3

New Boundary proposal in yellow

5.28 Recommendations – Boundary Change for Craig Y Don and Tudno ward

- Move the boundary to Clarence Crescent rather than Clarence Drive. Thus, increasing the electorate of Craig y Don ward by 347 electors, to give a total of 2967. The elector total within Tudno would reduce from 3481 to 3134.
- Conwy supports this recommendation as Clarence Crescent would appear to be a more natural boundary, and adjusting the electorate would achieve improved electoral parity. As part of the next polling station review, the Council will review current arrangements to see whether improvements can be made in terms of location and accessibility.

6. Responding to the County Borough Council's initial draft proposals

6.1 Conwy County Borough Council would welcome any submissions or representations about its initial draft proposals, which should be made in writing to:

Mrs Sian Williams, Head of Democratic Services
Community Review Submissions
Conwy County Borough Council
PO Box 1
Colwyn Bay
LL29 0GG
Or e-mail electoral@conwy.gov.uk

The deadline for submissions for this second stage of the review is **Friday, 28 November 2025**.

Appendix 1

2 July 2025
Democratic Services
Conwy County Borough Council
Bodlondeb
Conwy
LL32 8DU

Dear Sir/Madam,

A Plea for Fair Representation and Respect for Our Community

I'm writing to you on behalf of Llanddulas and Rhyd-y-Foel Community Council.

Three years have passed since the Llanddulas Ward was merged with the much larger Gele Ward, and the consequences are hitting us harder than ever. What was once a vibrant, locally represented community is now struggling to be heard. Our voice within Conwy County Borough Council has been steadily fading.

We are small, rural communities with very real needs, needs that are increasingly being overshadowed or ignored. Although we technically have three County Councillors, most of their time and focus understandably goes to the more populous Gele area. The councillors have genuinely tried their best to support us, and we're grateful, but the reality is clear: our residents are being left behind. More and more, it feels like we're being treated as third-class citizens in our own county.

One stark example of this disconnect was the 2018 planning application to redevelop the car park of the Fairview Inn on Abergele Road into 25 flats and 27 parking spaces. The local community, and this Council, were passionately against it. People were outraged. This was one of only two pubs left in the village and the only place in the whole of Llanddulas that served food. It wasn't just a pub; it was a vital social and economic hub for both locals and the 35,000+ visitors who come to our Welsh villages every year.

Yet despite this overwhelming opposition, the application was approved. On the Planning Committee that day were two County Borough Councillors from Abergele and one from Llysfaen, all three abstained from the vote. That silence allowed the development to pass. It has had a huge impact on the local medical centre, schools and public services across Llanddulas, Llysfaen and Abergele.

On occasions vital information is not communicated to us as a Community Council. This lack of communication is making it harder and harder to serve our community properly. A recent example was the significant roadworks along Abergele Road, we weren't notified and were left fielding frustrated questions from residents, including holidaymakers, who assumed we had been consulted. Six key bus stops were closed, affecting at least 350 residents a day, many of whom are elderly or have limited mobility. For some, this wasn't just an inconvenience, it affected their independence.

Now, adding to our growing concerns, we have been made aware that discussions are taking place about potentially changing the structure of our Community Council. As has happened repeatedly over the past 20 years, this inevitably sparks talk of dissolving it altogether or merging with Abergele Town Council or Llysfaen Community Council. Such a move would be deeply damaging. It would take away the limited autonomy we still hold and erase the unique historical identity we've fought so hard to maintain.

These villages are not just dots on a map. They are living, breathing Welsh communities with character, history and pride. Our Community Council was built from the ground up, evolving from a ratepayers' association into a respected local body, because we knew our residents needed and deserved their own voice.

We're not passive. We act. When Conwy CBC withdrew funding from the local playscheme, our Council stepped in and created an affordable childcare scheme in partnership with two local youth groups. We support local organisations, youth clubs and voluntary groups. We helped launch the Dog Fouling Awareness Project alongside Conwy CBC, and we introduced Community Speed watch with North Wales Police, all initiatives born from listening to local people and responding to what matters most to them.

This is what true local democracy looks like. Not top-down decision-making. Not sweeping changes or mergers. Not silence in the face of critical votes. But real, engaged representation, working for the people we serve.

We're not asking for special treatment. We're asking to be seen. To be heard. And to be allowed to continue doing what we've been doing successfully since 1983.

So please, we urge Conwy County Borough Council to:

- **Review** the impact the Gele/Llanddulas ward merger has had;
- **Improve** communication and engagement with Community Councils across the County;
- **Reject** any move to change, dissolve or merge Llanddulas and Rhyd-y-Foel Community Council;
- **Restore** fair and equal representation for smaller, rural communities like ours.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and speak face-to-face about how we can move forward together. Our community deserves nothing less.

Yours faithfully,

Jeff Warren
Clerk to the Council
Llanddulas and Rhyd-y-Foel Community Council