IMPORTANT NOTICE – Torfaen CBC “Community Review”

Henllys Community Council (HCC) Statement

Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC) launched a “Community Review” consultation on the 8th of June, this year. See below for the link to TCBC’s media notice.

<https://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/AboutTheCouncil/Elections/Community-Review/Community-Review.aspx>

This review looked at community boundaries and electoral arrangements for community councils.

The community review will help to inform the size, structure, and composition of community councils in the future to ensure they reflect the nature of local communities and neighbourhoods. The review must be carried out every ten years.

Torfaen has six community councils. They are Blaenavon, Croesyceiliog and Llanyravon, Cwmbran, Henllys, Ponthir and Pontypool.

HCC responded to TCBC’s consultation suggesting the current boundary was increased to include the Henllys Church in Wales School and all the houses that were adjacent to Henllys Local Nature Reserve.

TCBC have now published the outcome of their review. HCC suggestions were rejected.

TCBC have offered residents two recommendations for HCC.

Recommendation 1.

To absorb HCC into Cwmbran Community Council.

This means we will no longer have an individual community council looking after the Henllys area and residents.

Recommendation 2.

To widen the boundary of HCC to include Hollybush and the Two Locks community.

This means we will become Henllys, Hollybush and Two Locks Community Council.

The survey itself does give residents an option for Henllys Community Council to remain the same, it is not a recommendation.

HCC have concerns about both TCBC recommendations. These concerns focus on:

1. The loss of history of the Henllys community’s identity and historical significance.
2. The possible loss of finance available to the Henllys community for the maintenance of Dorallt park, the grants offered to local community groups such as Henllys LNR, the events funded by HCC such as the youth club, afternoon tea, and the fete.

HCC are working on their response to the TCBC consultation outcome. We will share this document with residents once it has been finalised.

In the meantime, we encourage Henllys residents to consider their preferences and respond with their views to TCBC on the proposals.

Please note that any changes will not be implemented until 2027 as legislation will be required to change boundaries.

Henllys Community Council

Councillor Valerie Waters (Chair)

Councillor Brenda Everett (Deputy Chair)

Councillor Ron Burnett

Councillor Lawrence Smith-Higgins

Councillor Jonathan Lewis

Councillor Colette Thomas

Councillor Steve Webb

Adrian Isaacs Clerk