

Responses to the Preliminary Consultation

The initial consultation drew the following summarised responses.

- The Ward Boundary and the Electoral Ward Register should be the same
- That only the small number of residents in Cambrian Drive and Bishopswood Road who are affected by the review should be consulted for their views on inclusion within Central Ward.
- The majority of houses and gardens of Cambrian Drive and Bishopswood Road to remain in the Central Ward
- [After consulting with many residents of Cambrian Drive] Residents consider themselves to be part of the Central Ward and want the boundary to reflect this.
- Houses on Bishopswood Road and Cambrian Drive have no road access to Meliden except through a considerable part of the Central Ward.
- All of the houses in the contested boundary area have Prestatyn as their postal address.
- Residents think that Cambrian Drive and Bishopswood are already part of Central Ward.
- Favours the electoral boundary to run in front of St Melyd's Golf Club (a public footpath runs from the road to Bishopswood) or the dip where the town/village name place signs are at present (depending on the views of affected households in the Meliden Road and Paddock areas).
- Residents in Bishopswood Road and Cambrian Drive appear unanimous in wanting to continue to vote in Central ward as they consider themselves part of Prestatyn and do not have historical ties to Meliden.
- Suggests that as the boundary sign between Meliden and Prestatyn is in the dip of Meliden Road adjacent to the Golf Club this should form the ward boundary as well. It would be logical for the boundary to be the Golf Club on one side of the road and farmland adjacent to Tiny Tots Day Nursery on the other side of the road.
- Recommends that residents of Bishopswood Road, Cambrian Drive, The Paddock and the relevant houses on Meliden Road should be formally consulted on this proposal if that is thought to be appropriate.
- The properties mentioned all have a natural place within the community of Prestatyn rather than an affinity with Meliden.
- The enquiries I have made with residents confirm that a substantial majority wish to be considered as part of Prestatyn.
- The areas concerned are clearly separated from Meliden by a number of fields and the golf course and have natural links with Central Ward.
- Elections in recent decades have been conducted on the basis that the entirety of Bishopswood Road and Cambrian Drive are located within Prestatyn Central ward.

- I understand that there was a strong opinion last year from residents living within the areas concerned when the electoral register was amended to change this.
- The view being voiced was that residents feel their homes (and indeed much of Bishopswood itself) are located in Prestatyn and not in Meliden; in fact the properties are not accessible by car from Meliden without travelling through Prestatyn Central ward first.
- It would seem nonsensical in the absence of very good reasons to divide properties on these two quiet residential roads between two different electoral wards.
- There has for a number of years been an anomaly whereby the Paddock and the section of Meliden Road from numbers 93/102 have been located in Meliden Ward rather than Central ward. This appears to relate to historical boundaries but has never been addressed to accommodate modern-day realities. Those living in the properties indicate that they live in Prestatyn and not Meliden – in fact there is a band of green barrier land between them and the start of the development boundary of Meliden (where the community boundary signs are located).
- I appreciate the logic of both Bishopswood Road and Cambrian Drive aligning themselves to the The Central Ward as they have no direct road link to the village of Meliden, but the area involved should only be as agreed by the members of Prestatyn Town Council on the evening of 24.6.15 to incorporate the houses and curtilage of the gardens to the above roads only. The remaining boundary line should adhere to the original Meliden Parish/Ward Boundary. As for Meliden Road, The Paddock, and St Melyd Golf Club these should remain in the Meliden Ward, as it has a direct road link A547, which is part of the village.
- Bearing in mind the history of Meliden, it is a very old village mentioned in the Domesday Book, and in the 16th Century the Bishop of St.Asaph Diocese used to reside in the Bishops Palace now known as Llys Farm, and that is why Coed Yr Esgob has its name. There is a direct path from Llys Farm to the Bishopswood on the hillside upto Offa's Dyke Walkway, which is in the Parish and Ward Boundary of Meliden.
- Considering the history and heritage of the village, right up to the end of the 19th Century when it was one of the biggest Lead and Zinc Mining producers in the country, and we must not forget that Prestatyn was once in the Parish of Meliden up until the Prestatyn Parish Church was built next to the vicarage in the High Street in 1863.
- You don't just move ward boundaries to suit a number of people with possible ulterior motives.
- The importance of taking this stance as the Ward Member for Meliden is because of the existing erosion of Meliden Boundaries over the years to Prestatyn ie: The South West Ward.
- Now that this matter has arisen, it is now the time to relocate the Village Name Signs to the correct locations to prevent future confusion as to where the actual Boundaries are.

Responses to the Draft Proposals Consultation

- The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission agreed that the proposed change is sensible but believed it could be improved upon. See Appendix 2 for their full response.
- The Prestatyn Conservative Group of councillors commented as follows:

‘We are pleased that the residents of Bishopswood Road and Cambrian Drive who had been transferred out of the Central ward into Meliden will be returned into Central going forward. This is entirely sensible and logical and represents what these residents wish to happen.

We are disappointed that the proposals under consultation do not address the historical anomaly which means that a small number of residents on Meliden Road and The Paddock from the junction with Melyd Avenue to The Paddock, who consider themselves to be Prestatyn and not Meliden residents are to be retained with the Meliden ward.

These houses largely have been constructed in the last 40 years or so when the historical boundary between Prestatyn and Meliden was essentially the line of Melyd Avenue. We note that the reasoning is that they are along a main spine road however if you look at the site physically there is a clearly logical delineation point being the green land adjacent to Tiny Tots Nursery on one side of the road and the Golf Club on the other side of the road. In both cases the land is highly unlikely to be built upon to create additional housing.

Physically, utilising Google Maps the distance between the last house within "Prestatyn" and the first houses on the slope going into "Meliden" are separated by some 0.4miles which would not suggest that they are connected in any way apart from sharing the same road name. Our albeit informal consultation with the affected residents would tend to support our strong recommendation that you look again at regularising this border between wards on an eminently sensible and defensible line and include these few houses within the Prestatyn Central ward and hence there would be no requirement to have an inset portion on the border line between the two wards.

We trust that you will reconsider this request within this consultation as we feel that this regularises a long-standing anomaly and would not likely need to be revisited for some time thereafter as the would then be clear green barrier separation between the two communities.’