

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE,  
COWBRIDGE.

July. 8th 1946.

Sir,

The Councils of the Borough and Rural District of Cowbridge have met within recent months to consider what alteration in the status of boundaries of our Local Government areas is desirable in the light of present day developments in this sphere of Local Government.

These alterations have led them to acknowledge that the Borough Council with its slender financial reservations is quite incapable of standing up to the ever increasing demands arising out of post war legislations. If one is to judge from present trends Local Government activity is to be so speeded up that the Administrative machine which this small Borough is able to afford must inevitably and very soon break down under the strain.

This weakness of the Borough's Administrative machine has been apparent to Members and Officials of both Authorities with increasing force, particularly during the War years. Emergency services which fell to the lot of Local Authorities imposed much too great a strain on a very restricted Staff and the Town Council, much against its will was forced to hand over the responsibility for each service in turn to the Rural District. Within recent years too, by Agreement with the Rural District all the main Public Health and Financial

This complete dependance of one Authority upon another, besides being intricate from the point of view of Financial Administration brings with it for the Borough Council at least, a feeling of impotence and general restlessness. Local feeling in this small market town is running high because it is felt that it can no longer look to the Council itself for the services which it should by law provide, but quite clearly their provision is quite beyond its reach. Even the existing proposal for the erection of some 36 houses in this latest housing drive will mean an annual addition in rate of 10d in the £, incidentally the Councils full premium envisages the erection of a further 50 houses.

Now the Cowbridge Borough is the natural centre of a rich agricultural area and it can be established beyond all doubt that it is the desire of the inhabitants both inside and outside the Borough that this area and Cowbridge, with all its great historical heritage at the centre, should by process of Boundary adjustments be permitted to become an efficient unit for Local Government Administration

Both Councils feel that this can only be achieved by enlarging the Municipal Borough of Cowbridge to include all the Boundary now administered by the Adjoining Rural District. Such an enlarged Borough, can represent what has now become to be known as a "well placed community"; the northern area is rich in minerals and

there we find the mining of coal in our area. At St. Athan, in the South, there is located a large permanent R.A.F. Training Station, furthermore it is also learnt that a civil air-port is now about to be established in the Parish of Llandow, which is situate only some three miles from the town of Cowbridge itself. Finally, surrounding the Town a wide belt of the richest Agricultural land in the County is to be found.

What is more, these recent important developments referred to in the previous paragraph have altered radically the relation of Cowbridge to the surrounding Rural Authority, indeed Cowbridge town has now become the essential pivotal centre for the Administration of the whole District.

Accordingly, these two Councils are of opinion that the time is more than ripe for an alteration of boundaries along the lines indicated above and asking the Commission to take steps under Section 2 B of the Local Government Boundary Commission Act 1945 to give approval to the foregoing proposals and to treat this application as one having special priority.

We believe that by such action a strong and efficient unit will be set up that will ensure the provision for adequate and urgently needed services for the Town of Cowbridge and at the same time increase the efficient Administration of integral areas which fast