

## Appendix 1 Welsh Name for New Brighton Notes for Flintshire's local authority

Please note that the latest academic information on Flintshire place-names along with more historical forms can be found in Hywel Wyn Owen and Ken Lloyd Gruffydd, *Place-names of Flintshire* (University of Wales Press, 2017).

### **New Brighton**

New Brighton was named after New Brighton, Wirral (named after Brighton, Sussex), probably as a result of immigration. But before that, another name was in colloquial use, namely *Pentre Catherall*, after Josiah Catherall who built a row of houses there for his workers in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. [The Welsh Academy English-Welsh Dictionary Online](#) (under the entry 'new') gives 'Pentre Catheral, Argoed' as the Welsh name for New Brighton.

*Pentre Cythrel* was a variation on that Welsh name. Both names are believed to be spoken names as Blue Bell was the only name noted on the 1840 map. The tradition continued in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century: 'New Brighton but known colloquially as Pentre'r Gŵr Drwg' (*translation from original Welsh*) (1913), local evidence that may suggest that *Pentre Catherall/Cythrel* as such did not survive into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, although it can be argued that the 1913 transcriber was trying to avoid writing the word *cythraul*, which would have been widely regarded as blasphemous and an offensive Welsh name for the devil. Having said that, there is an entry in the [Baner ac Amserau Cymru](#) newspaper from 1906 titled 'Telegram Pentre Catherall' where that name is used throughout the short article and reference is made to how 'some call it Pentre C-th-r-l' (*translation from original Welsh*). Again, the lines (-) are used to avoid blasphemy.

Certainly, as the linguistic profile of the area changed and as the mining heritage disappeared, the forms *Pentre Catherall* and *Pentre Cythrel* also gradually disappeared. This name was discussed by the Welsh Language Board's Placenames Standardisation Team in 2010 and as there was no evidence at that time that *Pentre Catherall/Cythrel* was used locally, the Team decided to recommend *New Brighton* as a single standard form. This was consistent with the principle set out in the [Guidelines for Standardising Place-names in Wales](#) that antiquarian forms that are no longer in use should not be revived. We have no record of Flintshire County Council wishing to discuss this recommendation further at the time.

Responsibility for standardising place-names was transferred from the Welsh Language Board to the Commissioner in 2012. In 2018, the Commissioner published the [List of Standardised Welsh Place-names](#) on our website so that the public could search and view the standard forms of Welsh place-names and we have since received several enquiries asking about the status of the Welsh form *Pentre Cythraul* with some referring to *Pentre Cythrel* as the spoken form. A comment was received shortly after the publication of the List by a member of staff of Menter Fflint a Wrecsam, for example:

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'We were very disappointed to see that the list recommended using the English name only. The Welsh name, 'Pentre Cythraul', is in regular use among Flintshire residents.' (*Translation from original Welsh*)

They referred to the Urdd office's practice of using *Pentre Cythraul* in their address ([Fflint a Wrecsam | Urdd Gobaith Cymru](#)) and noted that the Menter also uses it. An article published on the [BBC Wales Fyw](#) website on 8 October 2019 claims that the Royal Mail and DVLA recognise the name *Pentre Cythraul*. The enquirer also referred to an unsuccessful attempt to submit a petition to the UK Government in 2013 calling on Flintshire County Council to officially adopt the Welsh name. The petition was rejected, however, as it was not a matter for the UK Government: [New Brighton / Pentre Cythraul - Petitions \(parliament.uk\)](#). They also mentioned how 'some older people refer to it as 'Pentre'r Gŵr Drwg' (because they do not want to blaspheme!) but *Pentre Cythraul* is the most well-known Welsh form here'.

The Commissioner received a copy of Flintshire County Council's gazetteer in 2018 where *Pentre Cythraul* had been recorded along with a handful of other names in a separate column without explanation of the status of those names. It therefore appears that this form was recorded by the local authority and that the local authority was aware of it, but it was not officially recorded as the Welsh form for *New Brighton*.

The subsequent enquiries and comments that we've received all refer to the form *Pentre Cythraul* (or *Pentre Cythrel* orally). It should be noted that none have asked us to consider the form *Pentre Catherall* (or *Pentre Catheral*) as the Welsh form. One enquirer noted that 'all local Welsh speakers' used the name *Pentre Cythraul*. Another enquirer contacted us as a group of local people had raised money to erect a new sign for a leisure area and noted that they were not allowed to use *Pentre Cythraul* on the sign as a Council officer had said that the Commissioner had not approved that form.

Several people have contacted us about the name claiming that the Welsh name is used increasingly by local Welsh speakers, and there is evidence in *Place-names of Flintshire* that residents referred to the place as 'the Pentre' up to the 1950s. Our Place-names Standardisation Panel therefore supports the use of an official Welsh form and favours the form *Pentre Cythrel* (rather than *Pentre Cythraul*) as the name is an oral development of 'Catherall' and reflects how the name is pronounced locally; using 'cythraul' would be a further step away from the original colloquial name.

**If Flintshire County Council wishes to adopt *Pentre Cythrel* as a Welsh form and is prepared to mainstream the name into all council work and systems, the Commissioner would then reflect that in the List of Standardised Welsh Place-names and recommend that form as the standard Welsh name to be used alongside *New Brighton*.**