

WORKING GROUP ON PARISH & COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEWS

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE WORKING GROUP ON PARISH & COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEWS MEETING HELD ON 14 OCTOBER 2015 AT SPRINGFIELD CAMPUS, BEECHFIELD RD, CORSHAM, COTTINGHAM SN13 9DN.

Present:

Cllr Ernie Clark, Cllr Ian McLennan and Cllr Stuart Wheeler

Also Present:

14 Welcome & Introductions

The Chairman welcomed those present and introduced the panel.

15 Purpose and procedures of the meeting

The Chairman explained the reasons for Community Governance Reviews, procedure for the meeting, and that decisions on boundaries would be taken by Full Council.

16 Proposals

Maps were presented showing the proposals.

17 Rudloe excluding Wadswick Area

Comments in support:

Peter Pierson - Corsham

- The proposal is not a land grab.
- Can see strong feeling from all of the Box residents here.
- Opportunity to look at things as times are changing.
- Communities are growing – Copenhagen, Rudloe and Corsham should have joint voice on what happens in the growth.

- About the School whose name had been changed – children come from both areas and makes no difference.
- Lots of ideas of how we can develop.
- Looking to the future and asking both areas how we should grow and work together.
- Corsham has long history as well and been working with Box parish throughout.
- There will be lots of development and families moving into the area. We need to prepare for that and properly integrate them and have their say whilst being supported.

Philip Whalley –Corsham TC

- Concerned at being obsessed with top part of the proposal – need to look at the entire area not just Rudloe.
- There is a large area which could be reconsidered away from Rudloe.
- The debate has not addressed 2/3rds of proposal.
- Need to tidy the boundary line.

Mr Docherty – Disabled representative

- Parishes need to listen to the disabled – Corsham does a good job for disabled people.

Comments against:

Pauline Lyons (Chairman Box PC)

- Disappointed with the proposals as Box PC have had no justification on the proposals and they should not have to fight neighbouring council over this. It should have been done in communication.
- The parish boundaries have been reviewed many times but not changed.
- Services and facilities in Box are regularly used by residents and they do not rely on Corsham.
- If the proposal is agreed then 1/3rd of Box parish will be gone.
- Too much of the precept will be lost and Box PC will not be able to continue.
- Box is a close community and does not want to be split up.

Margaret Rousell

- The parish of Box is a rural village and not a town like Corsham and should be kept that way.
- Live in village and want to be in a village (rural life) not a town.
- The local school has already been taken by Corsham (previously Box Highlands), and should be returned.
- Box is a very close community.

Ian Johnson – Resident Rudloe

- The Corsham proposals are requesting development land from Box and can only be justified by financial gains.
- The large turnout at this meeting from Box residents shows we have a strong community feeling.
- Corsham plan divides Box parish
- Council tax will increase

Anthony Lennon – Box resident

- No-body would not be here if Corsham had not asked for the land. All of the benefits are for Corsham not one advantage for Box.
- Guidance states that any change must improve all parishes concerned & their democracy – this is not apparent in this proposal.

Bob Smith – Box resident

- Expected to be told what the plans were and why they were made and pros and cons of the changes including council tax, at this meeting. This has not been done and people are confused.

Rev Doc Janet Anderson McKenzie (rev of church)

- Community cohesion in Rudloe will be seriously impacted.
- The change (Park Avenue - military) would stay in Box but the rest of the military houses would go into Corsham. This would make it even more difficult to bring cohesion and integrate the areas and I have big concerns.
- People need uniform support from their parish which would work well with the Box PC Proposal. It would not work well with Corsham proposal.

Robert Davis – Resident Rudloe

- I use all of Box facilities and want to remain a Box resident.
- Insulted about the Corsham proposal and residents had not been informed previously by Corsham TC that they had put these proposals together.
- Want to remain as we are.

Charles Fuller – Neston

- Boundary should follow hard lines – clear boundaries
- If the parish needs to change then other lines are better – West Wells Road for example.

- Should not take over a 3rd of Rudloe and break it up.
- Proposal does not make sense.
- Allow Box to have land to develop and contain itself which will benefit its own residents.
- If Box develops so will Corsham.

Alan Pain

- Current I run the Box People and Places Community websites.
- Rudloe has been part of Box for 880 years and shows why the people of Box are concerned about losing their neighbours, friends etc.
- In Box there is a yearly war memorial - 9 Rudloe servicemen lost their lives with pals from Box - not Corsham. Box also supported their families.
- Box has a large history which should be kept.
- Box villagers are proud.
- The proposals are a short term fix to financial problems.
- Will do considerable damage by breaking the community identity.

Chris Tarbin – Rudloe resident

- Box has a real sense of community cohesion.
- The Corsham leaflet referred to – does not refer to community only a land grab

John Currant - Box resident

- Family has been in Box for over 100 years and own/ worked in businesses throughout that time.
- Always associated self as a Box resident and from Box.
- Facilities are always full and people are proud.
- Corsham have not spoken to us about why they want this review.

Chair of Box Link – Rodney Weasley

- Provide services in the Rudloe/ Box area
- Box area supports Rudloe residents via link service
- Cannot see a better example of local community support
- Proposal will destroy community feeling

David Hofford - Resident

- During the last review I was moved into Box (was in Corsham).
- Now the proposal would mean I have to move again – I'd rather stay

Ann Keat

- Costing not made – how much would box loose? Can we have figures?
 - No as panel are not allowed to take into account the precept.

Palmer – Box Village

- The proposal looks like a land grab.
- All Box residents present tonight are wearing Box stickers which shows how proud and passionate we are.
- Nowhere better to live and we do not want to live in Corsham.

Shift Taylor – Rudloe - Leafey Lane

- Agree the proposal looks like a land grab.
- What's in it for Rudloe?
- Do not feel part of Box or Corsham
- Use Corsham more
- If precept the rose what benefits etc will Rudloe see?
- Rely on busses which are not great, how would that change?
- If moved into Corsham and developed, will we get better amenities?

Juliet Palmer -Rudloe

- Looking at people not here yet. Why are we not taken into consideration we are already living here!

Dr William Richards – Box

- Looking at the criteria (guidance), I am struggling to match Corsham's reasons to the criteria in which the decision is made.
- The proposal only refers to development.
- No mention of community cohesion.

Steve Wheeler – Box Hill

- At least 1 person from Corsham spoke thanks! Where are they all?
- Corsham have suggested that Box would not integrate new community's rubbish who said we can't?

Richard Cambell

- With Box losing so much in this proposal and there being no other areas for develop due to the conservation area. This would leave Box with no options and struggling significantly due to financial pressures.

Additional comments:

Comments in support:

Rebecca Richards – Box PC

- Rudloe is a split community and Box is happy to help them integrate

Margaret Rousell

- We have worked very hard to integrate both communities – We asked Corsham for help and they refused all but one request.
- Need to bring community together and not split them up.

Jenny Eden – Box Resident

- Box parish belongs to the church within the parish and not to anyone else.

Comment against:

Additional comments:

18a Land to the East of the A350 Main Road

Comments in support:

New comment – Corsham

- The proposal is not about a land grab but integrating communities for the future.

Comments against:

Jane Browning

- There is no reason for the change but a tidying up exercise which not good enough.
- Usually the train line was the boundary.
- All down to changes in the core strategy.
 - Parish lines have no significance in planning terms.
- In core strategy, areas are put in community areas which are based on parish lines. The change is only proposed to gain development areas.

Additional comments:

New comment

- What is the deadline for submissions?
 - November 24th the working group are hoping to have recommendations to take to full council. Although no proposal will be rushed if it is not clear. The end of October is the deadline for survey responses.

Alan Pains - Parish website Box

- That date may be difficult for residents. If you can tell Box PC the end date I will have it on the website.

19 **Close**

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and comments.

(Duration of meeting: 7.00 - 8.30 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Jessica Croman, of Democratic Services, direct line , e-mail

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line (01225) 713114/713115

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