

Dear Mr Watling,

We write to make a submission under the current Community Governance Review and, in particular to note our concern with the proposal by Corsham Town Council to seek to change the boundary between Corsham and the Parish of Box.

We are surprised at the proposals given that there have been no demographic changes or significant development in the area under review.

The residents of Rudloe see themselves as part of Box and generally look to Box for community cohesion and parish identity. Rudloe is part of the ecclesiastical parish of Box with Hazelbury and indeed Box Church run a fortnightly family worship service in the Rudloe Military Community Centre as well as running the local 'tots group' at the Rudloe Community Centre. We are concerned that any move to redefine the boundaries will undermine these good developments in terms of community cohesion and identity.

The current parish boundary is aligned with the ecclesiastical parish boundary which is a distinct and historic boundary. The hamlets of Wadswick and Chapel Plaister have for many generations been part of Box and indeed the chapel at Chapel Plaister is part of the Parish of Box with Hazelbury, a historic parish dating back hundreds of years. To redefine the boundary and move Wadswick and Chapel Plaister into Corsham and sever the links with Box seems of little benefit to anyone.

Of course, any changes would not affect ecclesiastical boundaries and, should the boundaries change, there would be confusion across Rudloe, Wadswick and Chapel Plaster as to the Parish Church for baptisms, marriages and funerals (since this would remain as Box).

We also note with concern the financial implications on Box Parish of losing just under one third of the current dwellings and what this would mean for services and precept for local residents, as well as the potential deterioration of local services for those residents impacted by any boundary change.

We would be grateful if you could note both of our objections to these proposals and consider the above points as part of the review.

Yours sincerely

Revd Dr Janet Anderson-MacKenzie, Priest in Charge of the Parish of Box with Hazelbury
Mr Ian MacKenzie

Both of

The Vicarage, Church Lane, Box, Wiltshire, SN13 8NR

Copy to Margaret Carey, Clerk, Box Parish Council