

Letter and email from Mr and Mrs D Brighten 13 October 2015

Dear Mr Watling,

My wife and I are residents of Box living on the Kingsdown Road. When the 'Parish Boundary Changes' were first proposed we wrote itemising the reasons why we felt (logically, economically and from a community perspective) that the *status quo* should be maintained. Most of these are encapsulated in the submission made by Box Parish Council this week, which we fully endorse. We have not spoken to any resident of the Village who would support the changes. Box is essentially a self sustaining, thriving community with a vibrant personality and active agenda. To become victim to the predations of a larger neighbour acting in a nefarious fashion will obviously engender a reaction - which is has done. The cancellation of the original meeting on the flimsiest excuse was inexcusable. Selwyn Hall, Box, is the obvious location for such a discussion as it is the venue with which most of the affected parties are familiar and have easiest access to. It is also the epicentre for the village's social activities. Moving to a fairly remote location out of the territory will mean that many of the residents will not be able to be present at the meeting - but cynically one may feel that fact did not escape the organisers attention. One may be tempted to observe that such surreptitious scheduling smacks of a group determined to 'railroad through' their agenda for change. We would love to receive tangible evidence to convince us to the contrary but suspect that it does not exist.

We also attach a copy of our original letter.

Richard & Denise Brighten



Richard & Denise Brighten

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Tuesday 22nd July, 2014.

Mr. John Watling,  
Head of Electoral Services,  
Wiltshire Council,  
County Hall,  
Trowbridge,  
Wiltshire, BA14 8JN.

Dear

We are somewhat puzzled why certain authorities should consider that Parish Boundaries need to change in respect of Box. As far as we can ascertain all of the criteria regarding an established Parish are fulfilled. We have always been struck by the strong currents of identity and community in the village and steadfast strength of the Parish Structure. In conversations with neighbours, friends, other residents of Box and those with and without commercial interests we have not yet identified one who would welcome a boundary change. It is difficult to think of any population shifts or additional developments in the Parish which warrant or justify boundary adjustments.

On reflection it would seem to us that the existing boundaries are exemplary features of what they are planned to be and any meddling or adjustments will only add an artificiality to the *status quo*.

Our perspective is that the Parish is a well-balanced and efficient unit supplying the services and facilities required and desired by the residents. As with any viable working model there is always somebody, or an external force, that thinks change would provide improvement. The implementation of this attitude generally leads to disaster or a deterioration in a fluent, effective system. "If it ain't broke don't try and fix it" should be the watchword and Box certainly

ain't broke!! There is a complete litany of lost or depleted services that will occur if boundary changes were to be introduced. These we can list if required.

In these situations we believe that it should be the responsibility of those proposing amendments to identify themselves and prove conclusively that change would be beneficial to the affected rather than the affected having to defend their position. Transparency!!

Yours, not so faithfully,

Richard & Denise Brighten