

Extract from an e-mail from Mr P Rayner 29 September 2015.

Philip lived in Mills Platt, the hamlet next to Corsham, for about ten years and was an active participant on Box Parish Council until recently.

Alan Payne

Sent from Windows Mail

From:

Sent: Tuesday, 29 September 2015 10:34

To: boxpeopleandplaces@yahoo.co.uk

Hi Alan

I am sorry that we will not be able to attend the meeting on 14th as we will be in France. It is obviously important that as many people as possible attend.

I am not sure what the criteria is that will be the basis of the decision on the boundary but assume that it is partly economic, partly social and only to a limited extent historical I am afraid. I think your article is a good rallying cry and points to past links of the various hamlets with Box but at the meeting we attended in Selwyn Hall there were a lot of people from the various hamlets, particularly Rudloe who talked of seeing themselves and their families as Box residents, attending Box School, Box Surgery etc. and I think it is these more contemporary links that will carry more weight; so all those people need to express their feeling of identity with Box. Your article and readers responses on the website would one means of doing that, writing to the Boundary Commission would be another and attending the meeting will be another.

There is a strong economic argument for maintaining the status quo as if the boundary changes then Box Parish will be severely financially weakened and in effect Corsham Parish will be enriched at the cost of services to the people of Box Parish. This is an argument that I think the Parish Council will strongly argue.

There is an argument to be made on the basis of what (if anything) can Corsham do for the hamlets of Rudloe, Wadswick & Chapel Plaister. Will the new residents have increased Council Tax bills? Will they get improved services as a result of the change? What services will they lose that are currently supplied by Box Parish i.e. street cleaning? Again I think that Box Parish Council will highlight these.

I don't think Corsham Town Council has a strong case but these are uncertain times!

Philip Rayner
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