

Extract from email from Mr B Mennell 21 October 2015

Dear Mr Whatling

You will see from my address below that I live in that part of Rudloe that is within the Parish of Box.

I have given a huge amount of thought to what is best for the Governance of the two Parishes in the current boundary review. It has been very frustrating that from the outset eighteen months or so ago Corsham Council never gave any explanation of any supposed advantages of their proposal to transfer part of Box Parish into Corsham. Only with the calling notice for the Consultation Meeting to be held on 14th October has there been any attempt at an explanation for the people directly affected, and I did not find the reasons convincing – there is little if anything that could not be achieved by the area remaining part of Box Parish. I thought it very telling that the several members of Corsham Council present at the meeting on 14th October were unable to provide any good reasons at all. I therefore have to agree with those that say the real motive is indeed a 'land grab' to provide Corsham with more revenue from the houses they would gain in the enlarged Parish.

Against this is the damage to cohesion of the Box Parish and in particular the many links between the people of Rudloe (and elsewhere in the affected area) and those of Box itself. It is true of course that many of us in Rudloe use the facilities in Corsham, but I don't think that is relevant to the boundary review – if it was you would have to take account of the fact that we use those in Bath even more! I think therefore that if the Corsham proposal is accepted it would cause harm to community identity and does not have any apparent benefits to the people in the affected area. Additionally I know it would present very real difficulties for the remaining part of Box Parish.

In summary therefore I disagree with/object to the Corsham Town Council proposal to change the Corsham/Box Parish Boundary.

(Unusually) my wife who lives at the same address fully agrees with me.