

Extract from e-mail from Patricia Crowe 12 October 2015.

Subject: Proposed changes to Box Parish Boundary

From: Patricia Crowe

Sent: 13:27, Monday, 12 October 2015

To: mjohn.watling@wiltshire.gov.uk

CC:

Dear Mr Watling,

I am Mrs Patricia Crowe, a Box parish resident living in Kidston Way, Rudloe. As I am on holiday in Spain until Saturday 17th October, I cannot attend the meeting, to discuss Corsham Town Council's unilateral hostile proposal to move the Box parish boundary, on Wednesday 14th October.

I wish to register my objection to this high handed unilateral proposal by Corsham Town Council.

I have lived in Box parish since 2009, when I came from Salisbury to care for my mother following the death of my father. My parents moved to Kidston Way in January 1973 and I have had a close involvement with Box since then.

Box is a rural parish comprising outlying hamlets centred on the village of Box. There is a strong community spirit in the parish and we have a good social network. We are supported by wonderful caring clergy in both our spiritual and social needs and an excellent GP surgery, which provides an outstanding service. My first contact with the surgery was when I used to take my parents for their doctor's appointments. I was soon recognised by all the practice staff and taken on as a temporary patient, when I moved in to care for my mother.

When I became a permanent resident I was taken on as a full patient. Even though it is an extremely busy practice, I was taken on as I am a parish resident.

Although both my parents were cremated, their ashes are interred in Box cemetery because, as Box parish residents, they had the right to be buried in Box cemetery.

My life is now centred on Box and I have made a social life within a most friendly parish. I live in a beautiful rural environment with a good bus service to shops and rail links in Bath and Chippenham.

I have no affiliation to Corsham, which has very little to offer except charity shops and tearooms.

My bank has closed it's Corsham branch, so I must go to Bath or Chippenham for banking services.

There is no NHS dentist in Corsham that accepts patients over the age of 18, so I have to travel to Trowbridge for NHS dental care.

The campus in Corsham is excellent, but parking there is a nightmare, so I don't use it as much as I could.

The only interest Corsham Town Council has in the areas of Rudloe, Wadswick and Chapel Plaister is the Council Tax revenue it will accrue from the development of the Brownfield sites and the Greenfield development on the Bradford Road.

Outline Planning Permission for the Greenfield site, in Box parish, was pushed through by Corsham Town Councillors, despite local opposition, only weeks after they had refused Outline Planning Permission for a Greenfield site within the Corsham parish boundary. That refusal was overturned on appeal.

At the time of the application for the outline planning permission for the Box parish greenfield site on the Bradford Road, one Corsham resident supported the application by saying "If

there is to be any development, let it be on the Bradford Road." Not a very good omen for Box parish residents who would be moved into Corsham parish!

Not long after the Outline Planning Permission was granted for the Bradford Road development, Corsham Town Council put in a unilateral proposal to move the Box Parish boundary so that all the Brownfield sites and the Bradford Road Greenfield site would move into Corsham Parish.

This is a hostile move by an unscrupulous and money grabbing Town Council, who will have no interest in the area except to exploit the development potential and revenue that will be derived.

Corsham Town Council even delivered a flyer to the residents affected by the move stating that the Box parishioners didn't have to worry about losing their right to be buried in Box cemetery, they could be buried in Corsham cemetery instead. How unfeeling is that! Another bad omen!

Corsham cemetery is on the other side of Corsham on the Laycock Road. Who wants to be buried in an out of the way place so far from home?

On less emotional points:

Corsham Parish is in a different Parliamentary Constituency from Box Parish; It has a different telephone area code; Higher Council Tax; Most importantly the boundary would split residents of the Leafy Lane area of Rudloe between the Box and Corsham parishes.

Furthermore, it does not make any logical sense to move a large proportion of a rural parish into another one, when it will destroy what is a longstanding integrated social and democratic community. It will also probably make Box Parish unviable.

Please leave Box Parish boundary where it is.

Yours sincerely,

Patricia Crowe