

John Whitford
4. High Street
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Lady Jane Scott
Leader of Wiltshire Council
Trowbridge Wilts. BA14 8JN

21 October 2015

Dear Lady Jane.

Wiltshire Council - Community Governance Review 2014/15

I am a resident of Box, and have been so since I returned in 1983 from a tour of duty in Hongkong, eventually retiring from a career with the Royal Naval Supply and Transport Service/Royal Fleet Auxiliary. My acquaintance with the area dates back to the late 1960's when the Admiralty(now MOD) were developing RNSD Copenacre as central Naval electronics depot.

I am saddened by the way that Corsham Town Council is attempting to use the Boundary review as an undisguised attempt to increase it's financial interests at the expense of the neighbouring village. This would either lead to the inability of Box Parish Council to maintain it's standard of service, or to a significant increase in precept, as I understand that the proposal would mean the loss to Box of about one third of the village. There is I submit, no logic behind the proposal to annex two thirds of Rudloe into Corsham, when the transfer of the rump into Box would provide a clear Greenfield boundary and unite Rudloe as a community, and fully provide for what is now a pimple on the Corsham boundary.

There is also no reasoned argument to support the attempted land grab affecting the hamlets of Wadswick and Chapel Plaister and land surrounding them. The current boundary is clear, and the MOD establishments with whom Corsham have indicated they wish to strengthen relationships are already within their boundary, demonstrating yet another specious argument put forward by that Council.

Box village and the surrounding hamlets feature insignificantly in the National picture. In Wiltshire, it is a village within an AONB. Ditteridge is recorded in the Domesday book as a community and has recorded life back to the stone age. The Romans built and resided in Box, stone has been quarried for centuries, and Brunel brought his railway. None of these destroyed the viability or the environment, and I trust that Corsham's claim will not be allowed to do so now.

Box residents are proud of their little piece of England, and demonstrated that by the size of the attendance at the consultation meeting last week in Corsham. I know that James Gray is sympathetic; and may I ask that you, as our Leader in County politics and infrastructure, ensure that your Councillors are fully aware of all of the facts when the final decision is taken.

Yours Sincerely,

John Whitford