

Mr A Paynes summary of public meeting held on 14 October 2015, with picture

Dear John

I wrote a summary of the meeting on 14 October, which I would like to present as part of the responses to the CGR:

Overwhelming Public Support for Rudloe to Remain in Box at Boundary Meeting

One hundred and eighty members of the public packed the Springfield Centre, Corsham, on 14 October to attend a meeting called by Wiltshire Council's Working Group under the county's Community Governance Review. The consultation meeting was called to hear a summary of proposals to alter Box and Corsham's boundaries and to give the public an opportunity to give their views. The overwhelming support was for no change, expressed by about 150 people wearing "I LIVE IN BOX !" stickers.

There were three proposals on the table: a third version of Corsham Town's plan to transfer 445 properties in Rudloe from Box to Corsham together with considerable development land (map on website marked below left); a proposal from Box Parish Council to unify Rudloe by transferring 236 Rudloe houses currently in Corsham to Box (map below right); and a proposal concerning boundaries between Chippenham and Corsham (map not shown as not relevant to Box). Maps courtesy Wiltshire Council.

Twenty-three people voiced their views. Twenty people were implacably opposed to Corsham's proposal (about half identified themselves as Rudloe residents and the rest were from other areas of Box); two people wanted more details; and only one person, Corsham Town's vice chairman Peter Pearson, was in favour of Corsham's proposal. Every one of the objectors was greeted with considerable applause and the sole Corsham supporter with cries of disbelief.

Many speakers were surprised and deeply disappointed about Corsham's proposal which destroyed community identity. Several people referred to Corsham's plan as a "land grab". We were told that Corsham's proposal would result in Box losing one-third of its residents, devastating its ability to provide local services. Many were concerned that the proposal would result in higher rates for all residents but we were told that this could not be considered under the Governance Review.

Of special concern was the pressure on specific residents of Rudloe. Vicar Janet addressed the meeting to outline the work that St Thomas à Becket Church was undertaking in all areas of Rudloe including private residences, social and military housing areas.

The meeting isn't the end of this matter. The Working Party reports to a full meeting of Wiltshire Council who will make the decision about the proposals. The Working Party will still accept people's views and thought that the deadline for submission would be towards the end of October (see Box Parish Website for confirmation).

There are maps and further thoughts about this on the Box Parish Council website and Box People and Places website. It's not too late to give your views either to John Whatling at cgr@wiltshire.gov.uk or you can contact him directly via Box Community History website at www.boxpeopleandplaces.co.uk. The Council promotes its care as *Where Everybody Matters* so give them your views.

Kind regards and appreciate your work in accepting these responses.

Alan

Sent from Windows Mail

