

Corsham and Box documents

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Area A8 - Corsham and Box

Letters and other documents

No	From	Date
1	Box PC 5 February 2014	5/2/14
2	Box PC letter 30 June 2014	30/6/14
3	Box PC letter to Corsham TC 10 July 2014	10/7/14
4	Box PC Proposal to move Rudloe estate into Box 22 December 2014	22/12/14
5	Box PC response Corsham's revised submission 22 December 2014	22/12/14
6	Corsham Public Meeting Minutes - 14 October 2015	14/10/15
7	Corsham TC CGR for Corsham Sept 15 (leaflet) - FINAL 060915	9/15
8	Corsham Vice Chairman notes 14 October 2015	14/10/15
9	E-mail from Rvd Dr Anderson KacKenzie and Mr I MacKenzie 27 July 2014	27/7/14
10	E-mail from the Springfield and Clift Close Residents Association – 12 July 2014	12/7/14
11	Extract from a second email form Mr P Turner 15 October 2015	15/10/15
12	Extract from an e-mail from Ainslie Goulstone 29 September 2015	29/9/15
13	Extract from an e-mail from Jane Browning 29 September 2015	29/9/15
14	Extract from an e-mail from Margaret Wakefield 1 October 2015	1/10/15
15	Extract from an e-mail from Mr and Mrs R Eaton 29 September 2015	29/9/15
16	Extract from an e-mail from Mr D Ibberson 29 September 2015	29/9/15
17	Extract from an e-mail from Mr L Dancey on 7 October 2015	7/10/15
18	Extract from an e-mail from Mr M Devon on 3 October 2015	3/10/15
19	Extract from an e-mail from Mr P Rayner 29 September 2015	29/9/15
20	Extract from an e-mail from Mr P Turner 10 October 2015	10/10/15
21	Extract from an e-mail from Mr R Alderman on 9 October 2015	9/10/15
22	Extract from and e-mail from Mr R Parry 14 October 2015	14/10/15
23	Extract from Corsham TC e-mail 24 July 2014	24/7/14
24	Extract from e-mail from Mr A Payne – 12 October 2015	12/10/15
25	Extract from email from Mr B Mennell 21 October 2015	21/10/15
26	Extract from e-mail from Mr T Jones – 29 September 2015	29/9/15

27	Extract from e-mail from Ms A Keat 22 August 2014	22/8/15
28	Extract from e-mail from Patricia Crowe 12 October 2015	12/10/15
29	Extract from second e-mail from Jane Browning on 10 October 2015	10/10/15
30	Extract of e-mail from Mr J Currant 12 October 2015.	12/10/15
31	Extract of e-mail from Mr R Duxbury 31 July 2014	31/7/14
32	Letter and email from Mr and Mrs D Brighten 13 October 2015	13/10/15
33	Letter from James Gray MP 30 April 2014	30/4/14
34	Letter from Mr and Mrs Allen 25 July 2014	25/7/14
35	Letter from Mr I Johnson 29 July 2014	29/7/14
36	Letter from Mr J Beeson 29 October 2015	29/10/15
37	Letter from Mr J Whitford 5 October 2015	5/10/15
38	Letter from Mr J Whitford to Baroness Scott 21 October 2015	21/10/15
39	Letter from Mr N Crocker 19 August 2014	19/8/14
40	Letter from Mrs E Arkell 19 August 2014	19/8/14
41	Letter from Mrs M Rousell 16 September 2014	16/9/14
42	Letter from Ms Sally Mitchell 15 October 2015	15/10/15
43	Letter of 21 July and email of 12 October 2015 from Mr G Jones	12/10/15
44	Mr A Paynes summary of public meeting held on 14 October 2015	14/10/15
45	Second email from Mr T Jones 15 October 2015	15/10/15

E-mails and hard copy

No.	From	Date	For / Against
1	Mr C Ward	29/5/14	Request for information
2	Mr C Todd	16/6/14	Against Corsham
3	Ms A Lucas	14/7/14	Against Corsham
4	Mr J Peplar	16/7/14	Against Corsham
5	Mr and Mrs E Callaway	21/7/14	Objects to change
6	Mr P Smith to Box PC and Cllr Thomson	22/7/14	Against Corsham
7	Ms M Short	15/10/15	Why split MOD properties
8	Mr and Mrs J Connell	18/10/15	Against changes
9	Mrs C Ross	30 October 2015	Against Corsham

BOX PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs.M.S.CAREY
Clerk to the Council

Office Hours

Monday & Thursday
9.30 – 12.30
or by appointment

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Website address: www.boxparish.org.uk

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BOX
CORSHAM
WILTS SN13 8NX

Telephone: 01225 742356
Fax: 01225 744049

Our ref: PFC/MC

5th February 2014

Mr John Watling
Head of Electoral Services
Wiltshire Council
Monkton Park
Chippenham
Wilts
SN15 1ER

Dear Mr Watling

Review of Parish Boundaries/Community Governance Review for Corsham

Box Parish Council has received an email from David Martin at Corsham Town Council stating that the Town Council had requested Wiltshire Council to carry out a Community Governance Review (Boundary Review) to ensure that the parish boundary is appropriate in the future.

The Box Parish Council would have serious objections to any proposed changes to the parish boundary as the parish has a very strong identity as it is, particularly those residents who are at Rudloe and share a boundary with Corsham and are fiercely protective of being part of Box.

It would be grateful if these objections could be borne in mind when the review is being carried out.

Yours sincerely,



Margaret Carey
Clerk

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Our ref: PFC/MC

30th June 2014

John Watling
Deputy Returning Officer and Head of Electoral Services
Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wilts
BA14 8JN

Dear Mr Watling,

Parish Boundary Review

The Box Parish Council is formally objecting to the proposal by Corsham Town Council to alter the Parish boundary and move a considerable amount of Box Parish into Corsham Parish.

The proposal would mean that Box Parish would lose nearly a third of its population. This would have a considerable impact on the remainder of the Parish and would result in a loss of services, loss of parish identity and affect the viability of Box Parish to enable it to actively and effectively promote the well-being of its residents.

At this moment in time no rationale for this proposal has been given by Corsham Town Council.

Box Parish Council will be holding a public meeting on 15th July and will be carrying out a survey of its parishioners. A further letter will be sent to you after that date.

Yours sincerely,

Pauline Lyons
Chairman of the Council

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35 Highlands Close
Rudloe
Corsham
Wiltshire
SN13 0LA

Town Clerk
Corsham Town Council
Town Hall
High Street,
Corsham,
Wiltshire
SN13 0EZ

10 July 2014

Dear Sir

RE: Proposed Parish Boundary Change - Part of Rudloe and Wadswick moving from Box to Corsham

I sent an email to Ruth Hopkinson, Chairman of the Council and to Councillor Peter Antsey, as in the past he was a resident of both Rudloe and Wadswick, requesting a list of the benefits for the residents of both Rudloe and Wadswick if this proposal is accepted. As neither has taken the trouble to reply to the emails the only conclusion I can make is that there are absolutely no benefits at all for the residents of both Rudloe or Wadswick.

I strongly object to the proposed boundary change as quite clearly it is a land grab for the following reasons:-

- Corsham will gain with more proposed house building becoming available.
- With approximately 450 properties moving from Box Parish to Corsham Town, Corsham gains substantially from the Council Tax Town Precept.
- Box on the other hand loses the Council Tax Parish Precept for approximately 450 properties.

- The remaining properties in Box can now expect their Council Tax Parish Precept to rise to make up what has been lost from Rudloe and Wadswick.
- Rudloe and Wadswick residents will find their Parish Precept rise as Corsham's is substantially higher than that of the Box Precept.
- Valuable Council Tax revenue is being spent on the proposed Parish Boundary change, which could have been spent on essential services.
- Richard Tonge, County Councillor for Corsham Without and Box Hill in an email to me states 'I am against the change as I can see no advantage for Box'.

I have been a resident of Rudloe for some 42 years and as I said earlier I strongly oppose the proposed boundary change.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Graham D Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Graham D Jones

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Our ref: PFC/MC

22nd December 2014

Mr John Watling
Deputy Returning Officer and Head of Electoral Services
Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wilts
BA14 8JN

Dear Mr Watling,

Community Governance Review – Corsham

Following the meeting of the Working Group held at Corsham Campus on 12th December please find attached a response from the Box Parish Council to the revised proposal by Corsham Town Council which was tabled at that meeting.

At the Box Parish Council meeting on 18th December the Council resolved to make a formal submission to move the remaining housing at the Rudloe estate, currently in Corsham Parish but remote from the town, into Box Parish as this will form a natural boundary. This is shown edged red on the attached map.

The rest of the parish boundary **must** remain as it is.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Carey
Clerk

cc. Cllr Ernie Clark; Cllr John Hubbard; Cllr Ian McLennan; Cllr Stuart Wheeler

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Community Governance Review

Response to the Revised proposal by Corsham Town Council submitted on 12th December 2014

The Box Parish Council representatives who attended the meeting at Corsham Campus on 12th December were extremely dismayed that Corsham presented these new proposals at the start of the meeting. Under the Procedure Guidance circulated by Ian Gibbons PA it stated “full details of any proposals to change the community governance arrangements within a local area **should be provided to Wiltshire Council by the Town or Parish Council at least five workings days before the scheduled meeting. This will enable members of the Working Group to familiarise themselves with the proposals and to identify what additional information or clarification they may require.**”

The revised proposal was dated 12th December, the day of the meeting and it is not clear if this had been agreed by the full Corsham Town Council.

There was no time to read or digest the contents of this submission at the time but after having time to consider it the Box Parish Council would like to state that it finds some of the contents to be petty, insulting and unnecessary.

Faced with this situation Councillor Wheeler had to make a difficult decision – whether to rule out the new proposal and use the previous papers; insist on a new meeting or include the new report. By a narrow balance we feel he made the right decision, having registered our very strong objections.

The Box Parish Council’s response to this is as follows:

Page 1 – The Proposals and Benefits

“The case for a Community Governance Review is made more urgent by wishing to set sensible boundaries for our Neighbourhood Plan.” Neighbourhood Plans are purely a planning issue and boundaries can be set without any change to the actual Parish boundary.

Page 2 – A Community Governance Review of Corsham would:

- *“Correct parish boundary anomalies through Rudloe and Westwells.”* **There are no anomalies in our view.**
- *“Replace the arbitrary parish boundaries which dissect and divide Rudloe housing estate and would avoid people living in different parishes to their neighbours.”* **The housing in Rudloe is not 'new build' it is mostly fifty years old. The small amount of housing not in Box Parish could now be moved into Box. We had been minded to suggest this in the summer, but were told the closing date was past, so had not sought to suggest new proposals at this late stage. However, at the Council meeting on 18th December, the Parish Council resolved that a formal submission should now be made. Please see the attached covering letter.**

- *“Put in place clearer settlement boundaries ...”* **Settlement boundaries are nothing to do with parish boundaries, they are presently being reviewed as part of the core strategy and are about planning, not parish identities.**
- *“Facilitate the future sustainable development and expansion of Corsham.”* **Future development and expansion of Box parish, including provision of affordable housing would be stopped by a boundary change. Green Belt and AONB policies that cover the majority of our parish only allow for limited infill.**
- *“Provide clearer and effective governance of Corsham and Box, with more inclusive participation, representation and leadership.”* **Rudloe and Wadswick have presently five councillors on Box PC in the Box Hill Ward. Two live in Rudloe and three live nearby. In the recent past two Box parish chairman and vice chairman have lived in Rudloe and two chairman from Wadswick. These hamlets are not 'outposts' of Box parish, indeed during NWDC both Box elected representatives lived in Rudloe. Therefore governance and leadership is inclusive.**
- *“Offer more efficient, cost-effective and convenient delivery of council services at a local level.”* **For whom? Where is the evidence?**
- *“Enable a clear and effective Neighbourhood Plan to be produced for Corsham.”* **Neighbourhood plans are again purely a planning issue and are not part of this process. They can be carried out across parish boundaries.**
- *“Build a stronger, cohesive and more engaged Rudloe community which feels part of one place.”* **The answer to the second bullet point covers this and what has changed now?**
- *“Improve democracy, electoral accountability and representation with increased elected representation in a new/merged ward”* **Wards cover several hamlets as in Box Hill, it is not possible to dictate where councillors live, especially co-opted members.**
- *“Update out-of-date historic boundaries.”* **It has not been demonstrated why they are out of date.**
- *“Bring Corsham Primary School (Broadwood Site) into Corsham where the majority of pupils reside. Up until 2007 this was known as Box Highlands School and was one of two primary schools in Box. It was because the school ran into extreme financial difficulties that the Local Education Authority stepped in. By closing the school and reopening it as part of Corsham Primary School it was classed as a “new initiative” and attracted funding from Central Government. It was Box Highlands for*

over twenty years with the majority of pupils being from Box but as the demographic changes it now has more pupils from outside of Box.

Page 3 The Proposals (Existing and Revised)

The new suggested boundary shown in appendix C quoted a planning consent for a road that has not yet been constructed and may not ever be. The planning consent for Royal Arthur now called Wadswick Green has been active for approx 15years and not constructed. This road is private and had restrictions on its use for residents only.

Page 3 Addressing Box Parish Council's Concerns

Box Parish Council concerns to the original proposal were based on the guidelines issues by Wiltshire Council on 25th February 2014 entitled Parish/Community Governance Review with particular reference to Appendix C General Principles to be applied in the Review and reference to finance relating to the paragraph on viability.

Page 4 – Other Factors

The proposed planning application for the Rudloe No 2 site does bear a relationship to Box Parish as this is the only area where Box can develop and provide new housing including low cost housing. The Royal Air Force who occupied Rudloe No 2 site have always been involved in Box parish.

“It is unfortunate that Box Parish Council does not know its own boundary and the community which it serves.” This comment is completely unnecessary and petty. The vast majority of MOD Corsham is in CORSHAM Parish and we accept that.

If this review were allowed it would fail to meet the needs of Box parish residents in their demonstrated desire to remain one community. It would not allow Box to expand or develop. The amount of land involved in any transfer is not the only factor, it is the number of dwellings. This would, we repeat reduce the parish residents by approximately one third. WHY?

The Chairman of Corsham Town Council stated at the meeting that the residents of Rudloe all look towards Corsham for its services. We would ask where the proof of that is and whether a survey has been carried out to substantiate this.

The Working Party will now put forward its recommendations on these proposals and a public meeting will be held as part of the consultation process. There was a discussion as to who would be suitable to chair that meeting and we would suggest that any local councillor would not be appropriate.

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WORKING GROUP ON PARISH & COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEWS

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE WORKING GROUP ON PARISH & COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEWS MEETING HELD ON 14 OCTOBER 2015 AT SPRINGFIELD CAMPUS, BEECHFIELD RD, CORSHAM, COTTINGHAM SN13 9DN.

Present:

Cllr Ernie Clark, Cllr Ian McLennan and Cllr Stuart Wheeler

Also Present:

14 Welcome & Introductions

The Chairman welcomed those present and introduced the panel.

15 Purpose and procedures of the meeting

The Chairman explained the reasons for Community Governance Reviews, procedure for the meeting, and that decisions on boundaries would be taken by Full Council.

16 Proposals

Maps were presented showing the proposals.

17 Rudloe excluding Wadswick Area

Comments in support:

Peter Pierson - Corsham

- The proposal is not a land grab.
- Can see strong feeling from all of the Box residents here.
- Opportunity to look at things as times are changing.
- Communities are growing – Copenhagen, Rudloe and Corsham should have joint voice on what happens in the growth.

- About the School whose name had been changed – children come from both areas and makes no difference.
- Lots of ideas of how we can develop.
- Looking to the future and asking both areas how we should grow and work together.
- Corsham has long history as well and been working with Box parish throughout.
- There will be lots of development and families moving into the area. We need to prepare for that and properly integrate them and have their say whilst being supported.

Philip Whalley –Corsham TC

- Concerned at being obsessed with top part of the proposal – need to look at the entire area not just Rudloe.
- There is a large area which could be reconsidered away from Rudloe.
- The debate has not addressed 2/3rds of proposal.
- Need to tidy the boundary line.

Mr Docherty – Disabled representative

- Parishes need to listen to the disabled – Corsham does a good job for disabled people.

Comments against:

Pauline Lyons (Chairman Box PC)

- Disappointed with the proposals as Box PC have had no justification on the proposals and they should not have to fight neighbouring council over this. It should have been done in communication.
- The parish boundaries have been reviewed many times but not changed.
- Services and facilities in Box are regularly used by residents and they do not rely on Corsham.
- If the proposal is agreed then 1/3rd of Box parish will be gone.
- Too much of the precept will be lost and Box PC will not be able to continue.
- Box is a close community and does not want to be split up.

Margaret Rousell

- The parish of Box is a rural village and not a town like Corsham and should be kept that way.
- Live in village and want to be in a village (rural life) not a town.
- The local school has already been taken by Corsham (previously Box Highlands), and should be returned.
- Box is a very close community.

Ian Johnson – Resident Rudloe

- The Corsham proposals are requesting development land from Box and can only be justified by financial gains.
- The large turnout at this meeting from Box residents shows we have a strong community feeling.
- Corsham plan divides Box parish
- Council tax will increase

Anthony Lennon – Box resident

- No-body would not be here if Corsham had not asked for the land. All of the benefits are for Corsham not one advantage for Box.
- Guidance states that any change must improve all parishes concerned & their democracy – this is not apparent in this proposal.

Bob Smith – Box resident

- Expected to be told what the plans were and why they were made and pros and cons of the changes including council tax, at this meeting. This has not been done and people are confused.

Rev Doc Janet Anderson McKenzie (rev of church)

- Community cohesion in Rudloe will be seriously impacted.
- The change (Park Avenue - military) would stay in Box but the rest of the military houses would go into Corsham. This would make it even more difficult to bring cohesion and integrate the areas and I have big concerns.
- People need uniform support from their parish which would work well with the Box PC Proposal. It would not work well with Corsham proposal.

Robert Davis – Resident Rudloe

- I use all of Box facilities and want to remain a Box resident.
- Insulted about the Corsham proposal and residents had not been informed previously by Corsham TC that they had put these proposals together.
- Want to remain as we are.

Charles Fuller – Neston

- Boundary should follow hard lines – clear boundaries
- If the parish needs to change then other lines are better – West Wells Road for example.

- Should not take over a 3rd of Rudloe and break it up.
- Proposal does not make sense.
- Allow Box to have land to develop and contain itself which will benefit its own residents.
- If Box develops so will Corsham.

Alan Pain

- Current I run the Box People and Places Community websites.
- Rudloe has been part of Box for 880 years and shows why the people of Box are concerned about losing their neighbours, friends etc.
- In Box there is a yearly war memorial - 9 Rudloe servicemen lost their lives with pals from Box - not Corsham. Box also supported their families.
- Box has a large history which should be kept.
- Box villagers are proud.
- The proposals are a short term fix to financial problems.
- Will do considerable damage by breaking the community identity.

Chris Tarbin – Rudloe resident

- Box has a real sense of community cohesion.
- The Corsham leaflet referred to – does not refer to community only a land grab

John Currant - Box resident

- Family has been in Box for over 100 years and own/ worked in businesses throughout that time.
- Always associated self as a Box resident and from Box.
- Facilities are always full and people are proud.
- Corsham have not spoken to us about why they want this review.

Chair of Box Link – Rodney Weasley

- Provide services in the Rudloe/ Box area
- Box area supports Rudloe residents via link service
- Cannot see a better example of local community support
- Proposal will destroy community feeling

David Hofford - Resident

- During the last review I was moved into Box (was in Corsham).
- Now the proposal would mean I have to move again – I'd rather stay

Ann Keat

- Costing not made – how much would box loose? Can we have figures?
 - No as panel are not allowed to take into account the precept.

Palmer – Box Village

- The proposal looks like a land grab.
- All Box residents present tonight are wearing Box stickers which shows how proud and passionate we are.
- Nowhere better to live and we do not want to live in Corsham.

Shift Taylor – Rudloe - Leafey Lane

- Agree the proposal looks like a land grab.
- What's in it for Rudloe?
- Do not feel part of Box or Corsham
- Use Corsham more
- If precept the rose what benefits etc will Rudloe see?
- Rely on busses which are not great, how would that change?
- If moved into Corsham and developed, will we get better amenities?

Juliet Palmer -Rudloe

- Looking at people not here yet. Why are we not taken into consideration we are already living here!

Dr William Richards – Box

- Looking at the criteria (guidance), I am struggling to match Corsham's reasons to the criteria in which the decision is made.
- The proposal only refers to development.
- No mention of community cohesion.

Steve Wheeler – Box Hill

- At least 1 person from Corsham spoke thanks! Where are they all?
- Corsham have suggested that Box would not integrate new community's rubbish who said we can't?

Richard Cambell

- With Box losing so much in this proposal and there being no other areas for develop due to the conservation area. This would leave Box with no options and struggling significantly due to financial pressures.

Additional comments:

Comments in support:

Rebecca Richards – Box PC

- Rudloe is a split community and Box is happy to help them integrate

Margaret Rousell

- We have worked very hard to integrate both communities – We asked Corsham for help and they refused all but one request.
- Need to bring community together and not split them up.

Jenny Eden – Box Resident

- Box parish belongs to the church within the parish and not to anyone else.

Comment against:

Additional comments:

18a Land to the East of the A350 Main Road

Comments in support:

New comment – Corsham

- The proposal is not about a land grab but integrating communities for the future.

Comments against:

Jane Browning

- There is no reason for the change but a tidying up exercise which not good enough.
- Usually the train line was the boundary.
- All down to changes in the core strategy.
 - Parish lines have no significance in planning terms.
- In core strategy, areas are put in community areas which are based on parish lines. The change is only proposed to gain development areas.

Additional comments:

New comment

- What is the deadline for submissions?
 - November 24th the working group are hoping to have recommendations to take to full council. Although no proposal will be rushed if it is not clear. The end of October is the deadline for survey responses.

Alan Pains - Parish website Box

- That date may be difficult for residents. If you can tell Box PC the end date I will have it on the website.

19 **Close**

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and comments.

(Duration of meeting: 7.00 - 8.30 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Jessica Croman, of Democratic Services, direct line , e-mail

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line (01225) 713114/713115

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CORSHAM AND BOX BOUNDARY REVIEW

Public Consultation Meeting

Wednesday 14th October 2015 at Corsham Community Campus

Wiltshire Council is in the process of undertaking a Community Governance Review (CGR), which includes looking at the boundaries between the parishes of Chippenham, Corsham and Box.

A public meeting is being held at Corsham Community Campus on Wednesday 14th October, from 7pm to 9pm, and an online questionnaire is available at: http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/communitygovernancereview2015.htm#corsham_and_box.

The public meeting will give people the opportunity to hear a brief summary of the scheme and then participate in an extended discussion and question and answer session. Please read the information below and attend the public meeting and/or complete the online survey with your views.

You may already be aware that Corsham Town Council has made a request to bring the whole of the Rudloe community and the Westwells area around MOD Corsham, currently in Box, into Corsham.

A Community Governance Review must reflect the identities and interests of the communities in that area and be effective and convenient. Consequently, a review must take into account the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion, and the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

The reasons for Corsham Town Council requesting a Review include:

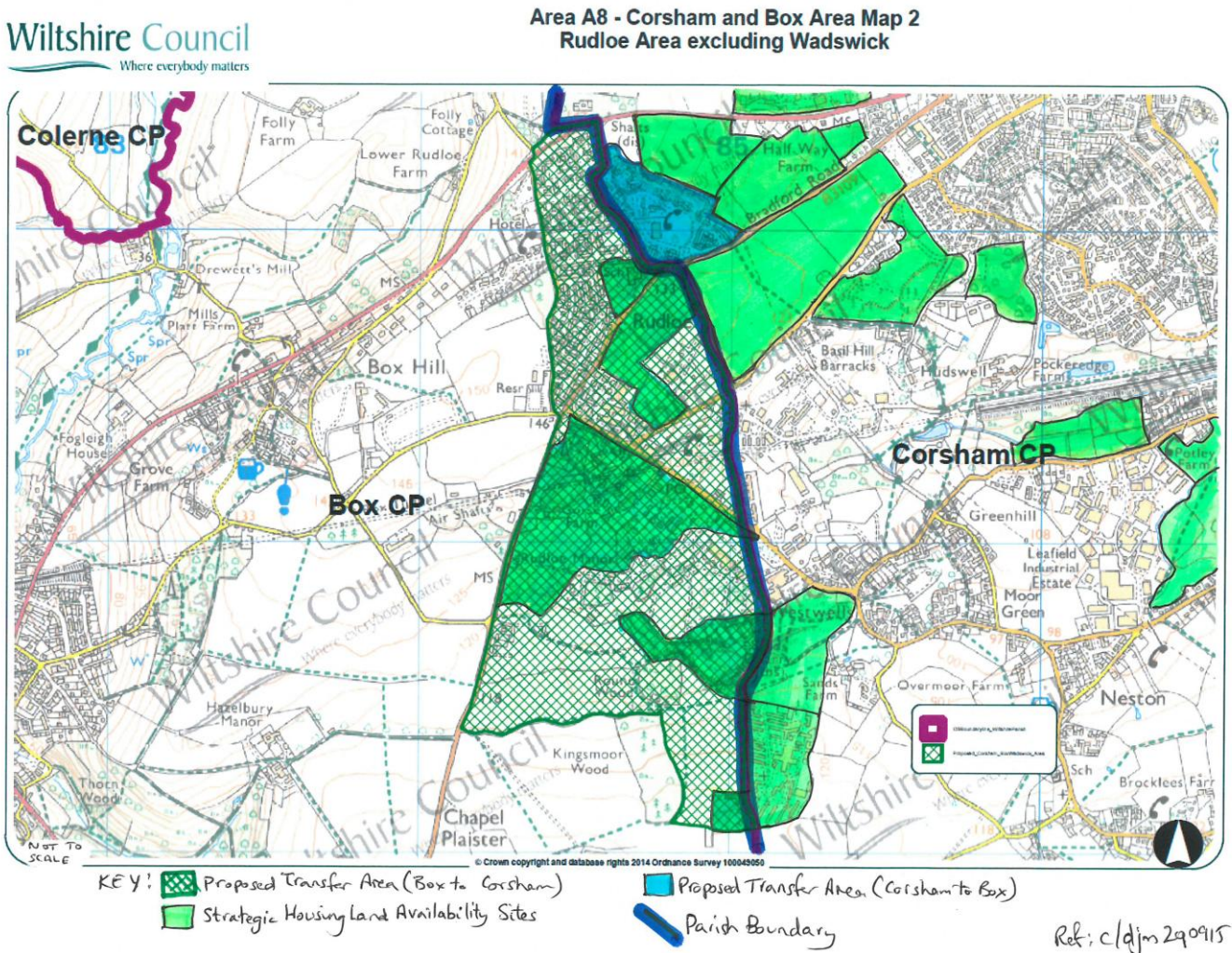
- The boundaries at the moment have not been reviewed in over 100 years so do not allow for any development since that time. This has resulted in the Rudloe community being dissected with some residents living in Corsham and others in Box.
- Corsham's current boundaries have little relevance to our current communities or planned development under the Draft Core Strategy or the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Economic Plan.

A Community Governance Review of Corsham would aim to:

- Correct parish boundary anomalies through Rudloe and Westwells
- Replace the arbitrary parish boundaries which dissect and divide Rudloe housing estate and would avoid people living in different parishes to their neighbours
- Put in place clearer settlement boundaries and identities for Corsham and Box, based on fixed features which are likely to remain in place for many years. The current proposal follows the established and recognised Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the new access road to Wadswick Green retirement village as boundaries
- Facilitate the future sustainable development and expansion of Corsham
- Provide clearer and effective governance of Corsham and Box, with more inclusive participation, representation and leadership
- Offer more efficient, cost-effective and convenient delivery of Council services at a local level
- Enable a clear and effective Neighbourhood Plan to be produced for Corsham
- Build a stronger, cohesive and more engaged Rudloe community which feels part of one place
- Improve democracy, electoral accountability and representation with increased elected representation in a new/merged ward

- Strengthen relationships with MOD Corsham and businesses to the west of Westwells Road, promoting an economically vibrant community
- Align the boundary to likely changes in housing and employment land as indicated in the Wiltshire Core Strategy and Wiltshire and Swindon Strategic Economic Plan
- Bring Corsham Primary School (Broadwood site) into Corsham, where the majority of its pupils reside

The Proposals Plan (see Fig. 1 – Proposals Plan) helps explain what the changes would mean. The hatched area indicates the land which the Town Council wishes to see transferred. The areas shaded green are those that landowners have submitted as potential housing development sites – some of which already have planning permission. The area shaded blue indicates an alternative proposal which would move the part of Rudloe estate currently within Corsham, into Box. The thick blue line shows the current parish boundary between Corsham and Box.



(Fig. 1 – Proposals Plan)

Corsham has grown by over 20 percent in the last 10 years and the settlement is due to expand much further in the next decade. The Town Council is positive about managing development and there is a strong desire for us to take the lead through the Core Strategy, Strategic Plan and Neighbourhood Plan. It is critical that this growth is sustainable. This means balancing economic, social and environmental considerations. In order to achieve this sustainable growth, the geographical area covered by the Town Council must be critically reviewed. The Community Governance Review (CGR) is very clearly the most appropriate review mechanism. So, when the opportunity arose in 2013/14 to put forward a case for a Community Governance Review of Corsham, the Town Council was, and still is, very supportive.

Corsham Town Council believes that a Community Governance Review is long overdue, and essential if Corsham is to expand and develop in a sustainable and manageable way. It has considered Box Parish Council's concerns and acknowledged them through submitting a revised proposal which reduces the area to be transferred by over 50 percent. This new proposal should meet the needs of both communities now and in the foreseeable future.

CORSHAM
VILLAGE-COMMUNITY
14/10/15

Community Governance Review

The reasons why Corsham Town Council made its proposal for a boundary change with Box are all set out in our formal proposal which conforms with Government guidance. I would just like to highlight a few of the main points and address some misconceptions.

We took what is at best a once every 10 year opportunity, to have our boundaries reviewed in order to ensure the parish was in the best possible position to serve it's communities. Over the past two decades Corsham's population has grown by about 20% and almost all of that growth has been to the West of the Parish. It is growth that has been led from the outside by developers, conforming with the National Planning Framework and Wiltshire Council policies which has left little or no voice for local people in what they want or where they want it.

Much of Box Parish lies within the AONB and therefore, as a relatively small Parish, has not considered it necessary or affordable to produce or cooperate in a neighbourhood plan. That means that the residents outside the AONB have little chance of influencing future development and planning policy which affects them, but not the remainder of the Parish. Corsham Town Council wants to give all its residents and communities both existing and planned, the strongest possible voice in shaping their future. Work on the Corsham Community Area Framework has identified the lack of identity for the developing communities in the area between Box and Corsham and we are keen to address this in a positive manner.

Opportunities now exist and are indeed encouraged by Wiltshire Council, for the devolvment of services they currently provide down to a more local level. Corsham is keen to explore these opportunities, but they depend on us having the capacity to do so. The Boundary change which we have requested would increase our capacity to take on additional services from Wiltshire Council to the advantage of all our residents and communities.

Corsham is already a Council with some capacity and a proven record of integrating it's services for both town and village communities within it's boundaries. Any growth to the West will only increase its capacity, in a very cost effective manner, to serve all the communities better. The proposal was never based on simply increasing revenue at the expense of Box.

Corsham started the process of examining its boundaries in accordance with the Government's guidance on this process. This led us, initially, to consider all of the area East of the AONB as a clear division unlikely to change over time. We were however persuaded by the arguments of Box Council and the opportunity offered by the new access road to The Wadswick Green Development to revise and reduce the area covered by our proposal. That is the proposal that is now on the table for this review and is one that makes sense in planning as well as governance rules.

In conclusion the Corsham Town Council proposal is inclusive, offering to all those who live now, or who will come to live in the new developments, a clear sense of identity and a real and effective say in how their neighbourhoods meet the opportunities and challenges of the future. Taking power back from speculative developers and generalised policies and putting it in the communities own hands through their own local, democratically elected council.

It does seem strange that Box Parish Council has now put forward an alternative proposal, since their position appeared to be that there was no need for a change to boundaries that had been in place for over 100 years.

Dear Mr Watling,

We write to make a submission under the current Community Governance Review and, in particular to note our concern with the proposal by Corsham Town Council to seek to change the boundary between Corsham and the Parish of Box.

We are surprised at the proposals given that there have been no demographic changes or significant development in the area under review.

The residents of Rudloe see themselves as part of Box and generally look to Box for community cohesion and parish identity. Rudloe is part of the ecclesiastical parish of Box with Hazelbury and indeed Box Church run a fortnightly family worship service in the Rudloe Military Community Centre as well as running the local 'tots group' at the Rudloe Community Centre. We are concerned that any move to redefine the boundaries will undermine these good developments in terms of community cohesion and identity.

The current parish boundary is aligned with the ecclesiastical parish boundary which is a distinct and historic boundary. The hamlets of Wadswick and Chapel Plaister have for many generations been part of Box and indeed the chapel at Chapel Plaister is part of the Parish of Box with Hazelbury, a historic parish dating back hundreds of years. To redefine the boundary and move Wadswick and Chapel Plaister into Corsham and sever the links with Box seems of little benefit to anyone.

Of course, any changes would not affect ecclesiastical boundaries and, should the boundaries change, there would be confusion across Rudloe, Wadswick and Chapel Plaster as to the Parish Church for baptisms, marriages and funerals (since this would remain as Box).

We also note with concern the financial implications on Box Parish of losing just under one third of the current dwellings and what this would mean for services and precept for local residents, as well as the potential deterioration of local services for those residents impacted by any boundary change.

We would be grateful if you could note both of our objections to these proposals and consider the above points as part of the review.

Yours sincerely

Revd Dr Janet Anderson-MacKenzie, Priest in Charge of the Parish of Box with Hazelbury
Mr Ian MacKenzie

Both of

The Vicarage, Church Lane, Box, Wiltshire, SN13 8NR

Copy to Margaret Carey, Clerk, Box Parish Council

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E-mail from the Springfield and Clift Close Residents Association – 12 July 2014

From:
Sent: Saturday, July 12, 2014 12:52 PM
To: mailbox@boxparish.org.uk
Subject: Proposed Boundary Change

The Springfield and Clift Close Residents Association is opposed to boundary changes proposed by Corsham Town Council.

We are concerned that there appears to have been no consultation with Box Parish Council before this was put before Wiltshire Council and believe that this is a land grab as a direct result of the houses that are due to be built on green field and brown field sites that are currently within Box Parish. Many of us wasted our time trying to stop the development on green fields on the Bradford Road, we hope that at least we are listened to about this as we are Box residents many of us use the facilities in Box and wish the boundaries to remain as they are.

Regards

Robert Davies

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Extract from a second email from Mr P Turner 15 October 2015

Dear John

Paul Turner wishes to raise an objection to the development plans included in both Box and Corsham's proposals.

Sincerely

Alan Payne

From:

Sent: Thursday, 15 October 2015 13:31

To: [Alan Payne](#)

14th October 2015 - Community Governance Review meeting at Corsham Community Campus

This meeting of the Working Group on Parish & Community Governance Reviews was arranged in order to take views on the proposals for the Corsham and Box parishes. The meeting agenda, which includes 'frequently asked questions' and a three-page survey can be found in the pdf file at the foot of this article (note that there is no 'Page 2' which was blank).

Probably a couple of hundred people attended the meeting, principally Box and Rudloe residents, and many good points were made for keeping the status quo. The impression was that if any proposal were to be accepted, it would be the 'counter' proposal from Box Parish Council (agenda item 3b) for the part of Rudloe Estate which is presently in Corsham Parish to be moved to Box Parish.

[To the shame of both councils (Corsham and Box) support was given for proposed speculative development on this pastureland at Rudloe when there are more than enough brownfield sites to satisfy housing demand. Photo courtesy Paul Turner.]

As the photo indicates, when it comes to throwing Rudloe to the development wolves both parish councils are happy to do so without any thought for the problems that existing householders have. There are no services at Rudloe - the only shop, on Rudloe Estate, closes this month. Do the councils not appreciate that a substantial amount of money is foregone on bus or taxi fares in order simply to get to shops? Parts of Rudloe have been described by Wiltshire Council as "deprived". So where better to put another 88 homes than in a deprived area without services?

Corsham Town Council (CTC) Planning Committee voted "unanimously" to support the 88-home development at Rudloe and, interestingly, voted unanimously against the 150-home proposal at

Pickwick. This, I believe, indicates CTC's true view of Rudloe - that they care little for the community. At tonight's meeting, the only arguments we heard from CTC were about "new" residents (of new developments) and what community they would wish to be part of (we heard nothing about how they support or propose to support existing residents) and the boundary anomalies (however, CTC's proposal would simply replace one set of anomalies with another - see next para). The author of the Corsham proposal, the former Town Clerk, now CEO, was conspicuous in his silence.

So, no good rationale was offered by CTC for their proposal. Even their proposed boundary which was to be based "on fixed features which are likely to remain in place for many years" has been arbitrarily modified to follow a new access road to Wadswick Green which divides Manor Farm's holdings (so part of Manor Farm would be in Box, another part in Corsham). The poor showing from CTC indicates that there really is no solid foundation to their plan.

Returning to sporting analogies, as made in my piece in the 7th October article, if this was a boxing match, Box won by a KO in round 1 or if a tennis match, by a WO (walkover).

With regard to the meeting agenda below, the included survey is a bit of a minefield as, for example, question 7 says "How far do you agree or disagree that the proposed changes to the parish boundaries where you live will improve the following factors". But what proposed changes? Those proposed by Corsham or those proposed by Box? The only solution is not to insert any ticks in boxes but to provide a narrative answer. Surveys should be returned either to the email or postal address given on 'Page 8' of the survey by 30th October.

Paul Turner of www.rudloescene.co.uk .

Sent from Windows Mail



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Extract from an e-mail from Ainslie Goulstone 29 September 2015.

Ainslie lives in Lower Shockerwick, Bathford, Somerset but she and her husband, David, have always been associated with Box, Box Church and Box Revels.

Alan Payne

Sent from Windows Mail

From: Ainslie Goulstone

Sent: Tuesday, 29 September 2015 16:56

To:

Dear Alan,

On the boundary debate I not sure how much weight my opinion will carry, as I live in a different county...

However, there is a PRECEDENT to note ! I'm not sure how many years ago (maybe thirty, Penny Newbould will know) there was a move afoot in Shockerwick to move the hamlet into Wiltshire as part of Box, Box being willing to receive the extension. Some residents were upset about the council tax difference between Bath and Wiltshire, some felt more part of Box than the slightly distant Bathford (historically now cut off by the railway); other residents opposed the move, worried about the value a BA1 post code gave their property.... The debate caused some rift...

In the end the move was opposed on the grounds of HISTORY : the ancient boundary of 957, the gift of our land and hamlet to the monks of (Bath) Ford of the same date, all the centuries of history tied up with being where we were.....

Probably no help at all as the cases are different, still history was the deciding factor...

Sent from my iPad

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Extract from an e-mail from Jane Browning 29 September 2015.

Jane lives in Corsham and has innumerable family ties with Box. She is a committee member of Box NATS and Box People and Places as well as several similar Corsham Societies.

Alan Payne

Sent from Windows Mail

From:

Sent: Tuesday, 29 September 2015 19:57

To: boxpeopleandplaces@yahoo.co.uk

Dear Alan,

I am totally against the proposal to re-draw the boundary. Does history count for nothing? I understand it is due to Chippenham wanting to re-draw their boundary to include parts of Corsham Parish due to Wiltshire Council identifying (in the Core Strategy) a certain amount of land for housing and employment needs for Chippenham, which Chippenham cannot meet within their current boundaries. Corsham Town Council has, in effect, agreed this without consulting its parishioners. The whole process has been rather "under the radar". I think there are very few people in Corsham who know of this review. Certainly I know of no proposal to have a similar meeting for the proposed new boundaries for the parish of Corsham.

So it is all due to the WC's Core Strategy that we are in this position. WC usually get their way - consultation is purely that; a way to put a tick in the box to say they have consulted. They do not have to follow the views of those consulted.

Although, again, they do not have to take account of such a vehicle, I wonder if, if WC still do not listen, Box Parish could call for a referendum. Indeed, if the proposals were more widely known in Corsham, I believe there would be sufficient people in Corsham to demand such a vote as well.

Jane Browning

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Extract from an e-mail from Margaret Wakefield 1 October 2015.

Margaret moved to Box at the age of three and after a spell away has moved back to the village.

Her ancestors are the Lambert and Richards families who managed the stone quarry wharves for many years.

Alan Payne

Sent from Windows Mail

From:

Sent: Thursday, 1 October 2015 10:51

To: boxpeopleandplaces@yahoo.co.uk

Dear Alan & Carol,

I've read your comments about the proposed changes to the parish boundary.....and agree with your protest for all sorts of reasons. I don't like the sort of tinkering that happens with monotonous regularity with the old, established boundaries, which can often be reversed or further tinkered with a few years down the line, almost at the whim of the latest body in control. I certainly appreciate all the historic connections that could be broken. But it also seems that Box would be the poorer in population and housing with all the social and economic ramifications that the boundary shift would bring. I AM curious to know what the feelings of the residents of the parts of the parish that would be affected are about it all. I shall go to the meeting on the 14th. if I can.

kind regardsMargaret

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Extract from an e-mail from Mr and Mrs R Eaton 29 September 2015.

Jenny and Roger Eaton have lived in Box for decades taking an active part in the Box Community since the 1970s.

Alan Payne

Sent from Windows Mail

From:

Sent: Tuesday, 29 September 2015 22:30

To: boxpeopleandplaces@yahoo.co.uk

Hi Alan,

Both Roger and I are totally opposed to transferring Rudloe etc to Corsham. It will significantly effect the financial status of Box. More importantly, I know that people in Rudloe, Wadswick & CP feel they are part of Box. They are part of the parish of Box and very involved with St Thomas a Becket.

We hope to be at the meeting at the Springfield centre.

Jenny

Sent from my iPad

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Extract from an e-mail from Mr D Ibberson 29 September 2015

David lives in Corsham and had previously run Box Scouts and Box Jubilee Centre as well as writing numerous historical articles and books about Box.

Alan Payne

Sent from Windows Mail

From:

Sent: Wednesday, 30 September 2015 20:53

To: boxpeopleandplaces@yahoo.co.uk

Dear Alan

I can see no logical reason why Corsham seeks to extend its boundaries or indeed any advantages to the residents of Wadswick or Rudloe. My suspicions are that there could be an hidden agenda to do with jobs, housing and grants.

However, my real objections are that I object to actions that sweep away the past.

We will try and get there health permitting.

Kind Regards

Dave Ibberson

Sent from Samsung tablet

----- Original message -----

From: boxpeopleandplaces@yahoo.co.uk

Date: 29/09/2015 10:18 (GMT+00:00)

To:

Subject: Autumn Issue

Dear Dave - FYI

Herewith the link to new issue: <http://www.boxpeopleandplaces.co.uk/index.html>

In particular please see the article about transferring a substantial part of Box to Corsham and let us have your comments about this:

<http://www.boxpeopleandplaces.co.uk/rudloe-wadswick--chapel-plaister-in-box.html>

Health and Leisure in Victorian Box**Care Before The National Health Service**

We reveal the untold history of Kingsdown House, Box's Asylum for the mentally ill. David Ibberson traces the story of the owners of the house and Jenny Hobbs takes us on a tour inside its locked doors (left).

But few people know about the female Dipsomania Establishment in Box for the cure of women who suffered the *madness* of alcoholism.

And the Comrades Legion Club set up in Hardy House (sometimes called Alpha House) was started to offer friendship and company to those returning mentally and physically disabled by the Great War.

PEOPLE IN BOX**Enjoy the Light Fantastic**

The Gay Nineties Dance Club brought grace and sophistication to Box in the years of rationing after the Second World War.

Box Horse Show

Pictures of the Horse Show held in Box for a decade, its formation by Eric Bayliss and Bill Peters and its demise after calling out the Fire Brigade.

Sports Clubs

The Victorians spawned many of our current clubs in the village. We recall the origins of these organisations with original photos. And the story of a single football match between villagers and Hungarian refugees.

Women of Box Arise

Starting our series on women who affected life in Box is Maud Cogswell (right). Can you add to this on-going series with your female ancestors?

**PLACES IN BOX****More About Ashley**

If you thought you knew the history of this area, think again. The saw mill caused the deaths of at least two residents and the failure of the Waterworks caused severe problems. Seen right Wormcliffe pilgrim chapel.

Heleigh House

Martin Devon recounts the story of this house, the origin of its name and family connections with Sir Ranulph Fiennes.

Railway Station Remains

We tell the story of the last remnant of the Railway Station still in existence in Box.

More Photos Needed

Still want more? Try the fabulous photos of George Reeves, quarryman ganger, and WI Centenary Celebrations.



GET ON-LINE AT: www.boxpeopleandplaces.co.uk

or contact us directly see below

We are a Community History Project open to everyone interested in Box, its history and its inhabitants.

Contact details: email: boxpeopleandplaces@yahoo.co.uk

Write: Old Jockey Farmhouse, Old Jockey, Box, Corsham, Wilts, SN13 8DJ

Extract from an e-mail from Mr L Dancey on 7 October 2015

Les was born in the Market Place, Box, and now lives in Christchurch. His memories of Box are undiminished with time and he is a great supporter of the village, often coming to local functions.

Alan Payne

Sent from Windows Mail

From:

Sent: Wednesday, 7 October 2015 22:49

To: boxpeopleandplaces@yahoo.co.uk

Hi Alan,

I get hot under the collar when I think about how things are. The world just seems to be getting more corrupt, including here in the UK. The problem is that people like me are too lazy to do anything about it.

I hope these changes don't go through. I like to think of everything going on as I left it more than fifty years ago. I have no right to feel that way but it an anchor in my life that I treasure.

I am amazed that there should be any consideration for boundary changes between Corsham and Box. The very thought smells of skullduggery to me. They, no doubt have plans already in place as to what they want to do with the land as soon as they get their grubby little fingers on it, and by then the residents of Box will be powerless to do anything about it. Strikes me of those awful western films that John Wayne was always fighting for justice in.

With all the underground workings it is a sensitive area and, to my mind, it is such an interesting area, it should be turned into a National park. Everywhere local government are looking to where they can make a fast buck. Let them look to themselves! Ministers are saying that they get very little pay for running the country but, when you look at their overall cost with functions and exhorbitant expense claims it trebles their cost to us, money they don't pay tax on. OK, so I digress but it's all part of the big con.

This is another call to the trenches for the Box people. It will be irreversible and no amount of wailing after the event will have any effect on the outcome. Though I have been away from the village a long time, it is always in my mind and will always be home to me. Have you looked into whether a petition might be a step in the right direction? They seem to have worked for some people.

Good luck to everyone,
Les Dancey

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Extract from an e-mail from Mr M Devon on 3 October 2015

Martin & Elizabeth Devon are two of the most respected people in Box because of their archaeological work on the Box Roman Villa, restoration of Box Church and the amount of community events that they support.

Alan Payne

Sent from Windows Mail

From: martin.devon@heleigh.org.uk
Sent: Saturday, 3 October 2015 11:12
To: boxpeopleandplaces@yahoo.co.uk

Dear Alan

Not a lot of positive evidence we can offer, but the following may help:-

In Kidston pp 101-102 tithes for Hazelbury and Wadswick were taken together in a document of Walter Crok III 1219-1220

In Jackson;s Aubrey p.59 quoted in Kidston p. 107 "In this parish [Box] is the chapel of Playster.."

On the map of 1630 in Kidston the boundary of Corsham Lordship lies clearly well to the east of the line of the B3109.

The Vicar of Box is also Rector of Hazelbury and is paid £10 per annum for the sinecure. She also has specific duties in the Rudloe area.

As to the shopping argument, it is quite absurd. We do our weekly shopping in Melksham where there is a choice of shops, all with free parking. Any building stuff is from Chippenham.

In short, we think that there are no good reasons why the current situation should be changed.

Hope this helps

Martin R Devon MSc
Consulting Engineer, Box, Wiltshire, UK

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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
3 Sion Hill Place
Bath
BA1 5SJ
UK

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Extract from an e-mail from Mr P Turner 10 October 2015

Paul Turner is a long-standing Rudloe resident who is the popular author of the website Rudloescene

Alan Payne

Sent from Windows Mail

From:

Sent: Saturday, 10 October 2015 13:29

To: [Alan Payne](#)

Alan,

The change in Corsham's plan is illuminating. Initially, the proposal was to follow fixed features which are likely to remain in place for many years – these were the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), Leafy Lane, the B3109 and the A365. Whether or not one agreed with the concept, this appeared to make topographical sense. However, the change in plan while 'pulling back' the proposed annexation also reveals underlying motives.

In the new plan, instead of following the B3109 and A365, the proposed boundary now follows the new access road to Wadswick Green (for part of its length) and the eastern boundary of Kingsmoor Wood, thus putting part of Manor Farm's land and holdings in Corsham Parish with the rest remaining in Box. This arbitrary divide would mean that all the Strategic Housing Land Availability Sites would become part of Corsham Parish with the relatively 'unprofitable' major part of Manor Farm (farms pay no rates) and the hamlets of Chapel Plaister and Wadswick remaining in Box.

The hundreds of existing homes and many businesses in Rudloe and Hawthorn and the planned and proposed new homes (Hannick's 88 homes, Frampton's 180 homes) and businesses (Bath ASU's existing and planned expansion at Corsham (!not really Corsham but Hawthorn) Science Park and Ark Data's expansion at Hawthorn) would, unsurprisingly, be annexed by Corsham.

Through this change, one gets an insight into the real reason for Corsham's proposal - income, power and status - to the detriment of its smaller neighbour.

Any road up (as they say up north) I have just been watching Ian Nairn's 1970s comparison between neighbours Halifax and Huddersfield in the form of an architectural football match. Surprisingly, Halifax won the contest 5-2. I wondered how Corsham and Box would compare, not architecturally but simply as communities, so let's have a go ...

Both places have many clubs and activities for their communities. Rudloe did have a thriving community centre until the turn of the century but interference from outside agencies (the County Council and the local housing association principally) has seen an unnecessary replacement building constructed (completed in 2000) at a cost not far short of £1 million. And just a few years after

completion, it was described, by Wiltshire Council itself, as “not fit for purpose”. This community centre, within Corsham Parish, has been a financial, planning and community disaster. Would or should Corsham Town Council take any responsibility for this debacle? I’m not aware of any such disasters in Box (at least not on such a scale).

1-0 to Box

Clearly Corsham, being the far larger community and also a town rather than a village, has more shopping, dining and watering (cafes, pubs) facilities than Box. But while Corsham Town Council, in its plan, states “Corsham has grown by over 20 per cent in the last ten years and the settlement is due to expand much further in the next decade. The Town Council is positive about managing development ...”, what has it done to arrest the decline of its heart, the town centre itself? National businesses such as Nationwide, NatWest and HSBC have all withdrawn from Corsham, the last just days ago (October 2015), indicating that they see no future for the town. Similarly, local businesses have gone: Higos Insurance Brokers have closed their Corsham office concentrating their business in Calne and Devizes; the best restaurant in the Town, Cinnamon and Madison ladies fashion have closed recently; the small Martingate Precinct has two empty premises and two charity shops indicating a town in decline and the Wiltshire College Corsham Enterprise Centre, also in the Precinct, closed its doors in 2014.

With regard to the last, I wrote to the college, the local MP and Corsham Town Council asking how such a fine facility with purpose-built classrooms including a well-equipped computer lab could be lost to the community. While the college and MP responded, the Town Council did not, indicating a lack of interest in Corsham’s facilities and future.

It is all very well trumpeting the outward expansion of the Corsham settlement but without a vibrant town centre, Corsham will be just a large, satellite conurbation with residents of existing and new developments creating more pressure on our roads by using the much better facilities of Melksham, Chippenham, Bath and Trowbridge.

2-0 to Box

We have just returned from a tour of the north of England and the Scottish Borders and were surprised to find that parking was free everywhere – car parks and streets. There were no parking meters and no parking attendants in any of the towns we visited (except one posh, touristy town in North Yorkshire). Some years ago, I parked in Newlands Road Car Park in Corsham (where charges apply) but didn’t have any change. While I was away trying to get some (change) I met an old friend I hadn’t seen for perhaps thirty years. Now here’s a question for anyone who happened to chance on this article ... What should one do in such circumstances? Engage in conversation about the intervening years, what has happened in our lives, our families etc or say “Sorry mate, I know we haven’t met for thirty years but I must go and find some change for the parking meter”. We should not succumb to having our lives dictated by bureaucratic, mercenary, exploitative schemes. If ‘we’ want to encourage the use of our town and village centres we shouldn’t have restrictive parking schemes. Both Corsham and Box (as far as I know) have restrictive parking so it remains ...

2-0 to Box

Having experienced the goings-on of the Corsham and Box councils (particularly the planning committees) I can say, without fear of contradiction (you're welcome), that they are both equally useless. Just two recent examples: the Corsham Strategic Plan states that there should be no development between Corsham and outlying settlements such as Rudloe. Yet the Corsham Planning Committee supported the application for a new mine entrance on the Bradford Road without mentioning the supposed 'Strategic Plan' (this was the very body that created it!). Box Planning Committee supported a half-baked planning application that would have seen the 15-mile view from Wadswick Lane across to Salisbury Plain and Pewsey Vale obliterated. And both Corsham and Box committees supported the Hannick greenfield application at Rudloe when there are more than enough local brownfield sites to satisfy housing targets. Both useless so it remains ...

2-0 to Box at the final whistle (as I reckon two pages are enough!)

Paul Turner

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Extract from an e-mail from Mr R Alderman on 9 October 2015

Bob and Sheila Alderman are important members of the Box Community. Bob has served for a number of years as chairman of Julian House, Bath, and was formerly headmaster of Hardenhuish School, Chippenham.

Alan Payne

Sent from Windows Mail

From:

Sent: Friday, 9 October 2015 15:05

To: john.watling@wiltshire.gov.uk

Cc: alantpayne@yahoo.co.uk

Dear Mr Watling,

My wife and I have been residents of Ashley for 34 years. We have read all the literature on the suggested boundary changes of Rudloe etc and can see absolutely no reason to support what appears to be a really cynical land grab on the part of a handful of Corsham people who have in any case totally failed to make a case. We shall be attending the 14 October meeting and will be voicing my total opposition to the proposals.

Yours sincerely

Bob Alderman

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Extract from and e-mail from Mr R Parry 14 October 2015.

Dear John

Thank you for your very clear presentation at Corsham yesterday.

We are still receiving responses from residents see below from long-standing Box resident Robin Parry who runs various clubs in Box such as Box GIGs which provides considerable support to elderly men in Rudloe and his wife runs the Box WI.

Kind regards

Alan Payne

From:

To: john.watling@wiltshire.gov.uk

Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 6:17 PM

Subject: Proposed Corsham Boundary changes

Dear Mr Watling

Proposal by Corsham for a Boundary Change

I wish to express my concern at the changes to Box Parish boundary proposed by Corsham Council.

There has been no population shift in the 16 years I've lived in the Parish to warrant a change to the already easily defined boundary bordering currently developed land.

Box parish precept provides for the maintenance of approximately £2M of parish assets; The Council Offices, the Cemetery, The Pavilion the Blind House, The Pound, the War Memorial, Box Hill Common Lacy Wood and the Recreation Ground. The latter includes a bowling green, tennis courts, netball court, mountain bike course, play areas for under 5s and 6-12s, football ground, cricket ground plus support for the Pavilion used by youth groups and some of the many organisations in this active and vibrant community.

It also provides for street cleaning and maintenance of verges and floral displays leading to Box regularly being among the top entrants for the Best Kept Village awards.

The proposals, if implemented, would result in some 450 homes out of a total of approximately 1500 being transferred out of Box Parish and with them the associated revenue. This may bring into question ability of Box Parish to continue to provide such services to its residents and indeed the viability of the Parish.

The foregoing was my response to the proposal in August 2014 ; the numbers may have changed marginally but the sentiments remain.

Now, a year later, may I ask why the meeting which so obviously affects the parishioners of Box is not being held in Box Parish.

Yours sincerely

Robin Parry

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Dear John,

Thank you for your email dated 27 June requesting further details in order to assist your Working Group regarding the Community Governance Reviews (CGR's) of Corsham and Chippenham.

Firstly, the position regarding the Chippenham CGR is that Corsham Town Council has no objection in principle to Corsham's boundary with Chippenham to the east of the A350 being reviewed and possibly re-aligned but that any change cannot be supported until details of a proposal are known.

Regarding the Corsham CGR, this is much more complex and a number of our reasons and justifications are set out below. You already have a copy of the plan regarding Corsham I sent previously and this has not altered. Further explanation and supporting material will be provided once Wiltshire Council's formal review process is underway.

Corsham's existing parish boundaries are not based on the current reality of where communities are, and planned to develop. A CGR would be able to address this. The case for a CGR is made more urgent by wishing to set sensible boundaries for our Neighbourhood Plan (NP). A failure to get boundary changes will not remove the need for a NP but would diminish its effectiveness in an area of considerable importance to the Town.

Corsham's current boundaries have little relevance to our current communities or planned development under the Draft Core Strategy or the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Economic Plan. The Planned development of Chippenham to our East and developments to the West of Corsham demand a logical review of where community boundaries lie. The Government believes that effective local government should be judged on its ability to deliver high quality services economically and efficiently and give a democratic voice to the people who use them. The Town Council, which already serves both the town and surrounding villages, is in a strong position to deliver services to an expanding community in a very cost-effective and sensitive way, reflecting the needs of different communities. New boundaries will provide the basis of greater integration of our communities, around a common vision of how we meet the challenges and benefits from the opportunities the future offers.

A key feature, which the legislation and guidance sets out for boundaries, includes a 'No Man's Land' between Parishes. Any look at local maps would indicate that such a boundary can be identified to both the East and West of Corsham. To the East we will need to respond to Chippenham's view of their aspirations to the East of the A350 and we would wish to include the whole of the Rudloe community and the area around MOD Corsham in plans, leaving a clear, undeveloped area of countryside with sparse population between us and our neighbours.

The Town Council has the desire to provide the very best service possible to all the communities which can clearly be identified as being part of Corsham today and as it is earmarked to develop in line with the principles set out in the Draft Core Strategy and Swindon and Wiltshire Local Economic Plan. We are not a Council fixed in the past, but one seeking to achieve the very best possible outcomes from change. The

Town Council aims to realise the aspirations and needs of our whole community through protecting our heritage and environment, and being proactive in providing the required homes and economic growth, supported by the necessary infrastructure. We are not seeking to simply increase our revenues, indeed we would seek to reduce the burden on all our council tax payers by improving the services we provide while achieving economies of scale.

Several of the advantages of a CGR for Corsham are identified below. The list is not exhaustive.

A Community Governance Review of Corsham could:

- Correct parish boundary anomalies through Rudloe and Westwells
- Replace the arbitrary parish boundaries which dissect and divide Rudloe housing estate and would avoid people living in different parishes to their neighbours
- Put in place clearer settlement boundaries and identities for Corsham and Box, based on fixed features which are likely to remain in place for many years. The current proposal follows the established and recognised AONB and A365 as boundaries
- Facilitate the future sustainable development and expansion of Corsham
- Provide clearer and effective governance of Corsham and Box, with more inclusive participation, representation and leadership
- Offer more efficient, cost-effective and convenient delivery of council services at a local level
- Enable a clear and effective Neighbourhood Plan to be produced for Corsham
- Build a stronger, cohesive and more engaged Rudloe community which feels part of one place
- Improve democracy, electoral accountability and representation with increased elected representation in a new/merged ward
- Update out-of-date historic boundaries which have not been reviewed in over 100 years
- Strengthen relationships with MOD Corsham and businesses to the west of Westwells Road, promoting an economically vibrant community
- Align the boundary to likely changes in housing and employment land as indicated in the Wiltshire Core Strategy and Wiltshire and Swindon Strategic Economic Plan

- Bring Corsham Primary School (Broadwood site) into Corsham, where the majority of pupils reside
- Provide a building block for the unitary council division ward boundaries
- Allow Chippenham parish to have a clearer settlement boundary, using the A350 as a boundary

I hope this information is sufficient to enable your Working Group to commence a CGR for Corsham at the earliest opportunity. Please let me know if you require anything else from me.

Kind regards
Dave

David J Martin
TOWN CLERK
Corsham Town Council
Town Hall
High Street
CORSHAM
Wiltshire
SN13 0EZ

01249 702130
www.corsham.gov.uk



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Extract from e-mail from Mr A Payne – 12 October 2015.

Rudloe, Wadswick & Chapel Plaister: Can They Be Saved?

Alan Payne

September 2015

I usually try to be impartial on the website but this time I feel the need to tell people my personal views. On Wednesday 14 October at 7pm at Springfield Campus, Corsham, there is to be a public meeting to consider the proposal to transfer Rudloe, Wadswick and Chapel Plaister (marked yellow on the attached map) out of Box to Corsham Council.

Not About Shops

One argument is that Corsham is the natural area for people of Rudloe, Wadswick and Chapel Plaister to shop. It is true that many Box people do some shopping in Corsham but it makes no sense to use it as the defining argument. People shop where there are facilities; for example, clothes from Marks & Spencer in Bath, catch the train from Chippenham, buy chocolates from Aldi in Melksham, and buy computer needs on-line.

This doesn't make us residents of Bath, Chippenham, Melksham or aliens from outer space. Where we belong is much more complicated than that. In many senses belonging is about historic continuity, where we were born and bred, and about the inherited memory of the history of the area we live in.

Continuity

Rudloe, Wadswick and Chapel Plaister are some of the earliest hamlets named in the parish of Box with a continuous, unbroken connection of over 800 years.[1] In the reign of Henry III (1216-1272) Bartholomew Bigod granted the rectory and tithes of Box and *Ryddlow* to Monkton Farleigh Priory.[2] The first recorded reference to Wadswick was to *Wadeswica* in a charter in the British Museum from the 1100s. Chapel Plaister was first referred to as *Pleystede* in 1268. All of these references identify the areas as part of Box.

The name of Rudloe was *Riglawe* for centuries, until about 1713 when it was changed to *Rudlow*.[3] Chapel Plaister was closely identified with Hazelbury in 1340 when the Bishop of Sarum granted to William de Rysindon, Rector of Hazelbury, a licence for preaching in the Chapel of *Pleystede* in his parish of Hazelbury. The death of Captain John Hanning Speke, the African explorer who discovered Lake Nyasa, source of the White Nile, reminds us that the Spekes were the lords of the manor of Box for centuries.

These areas are like many of the other hamlets in Box (including Ditteridge, Ashley and Kingsdown) which are proud of their local community as well as pleased to be part of Box's rich history.

What Has Box Done for Rudloe, Wadswick and Chapel Plaister?

In 1600 and 1700s the ratepayers of Box supported the destitute and needy of these areas with outdoor relief and work schemes. They did so because the residents of these areas were their neighbours, compatriots and friends. The cost of that would now amount to millions of pounds - is Corsham planning to reimburse Box on any transfer?

This closeness was repeated more strongly at times of war. There are nine servicemen from the Rudloe, Wadswick and Chapel Plaister areas who lost their lives in World War 1. Their names are recorded on the Box War Memorial and their families and those of returning soldiers from these areas were supported by Box's Comrades Legion Club after the war. Many died fighting with their Box Comrades in Pals groups. The same is true of survivors of World War 2, some of whom are still alive.

Rudloe, Wadswick and Chapel Plaister

Should Continue as Part of Box

People of Box are proud to have Rudloe, Wadswick and Chapel Plaister as part of their story. For centuries people from these areas have been buried in Box Church and Cemetery and are part of Box's story.

This closeness was true when Box Revels (of which I was part) organised the play *Totterdown Tanzi* to be performed at Springfield Community Centre in 1988 and for Rudloe Village Green, a community promenade play involving more than 200 Rudloe people.

Where you belong should not be determined by short-term financial and political whims at an opportunistic moment. That attitude produced Avon Council, BANES and gave Box the post code of SN (Swindon).

What Can You Do?

If you care about these issues please attend the public meeting at 7pm on 14 October at Springfield Campus, Beechfield Road, Corsham. Whether you agree with my views or disagree, it will be a done deal if we don't make our views plain by attending. If you can't attend please give me your comments via the website contact page or facebook page or pass them on to another person to express at the meeting. If we don't speak out Box will forever be diminished.

Sources

[1] There is a reference in the Pipe Rolls of 1167 spelling the name as Riglega.

[2] Pamela Slocombe, Survey of Countryside Treasures, Box, 1969, notes in Wilts History Centre, Chippenham

[3] JEB Gover, Allen Mawer, and FM Stenton, The Placenames of Wiltshire, 1939, Cambridge University Press, p.84

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.

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Extract from e-mail from Mr T Jones – 29 September 2015.

Tudor has lived in Rudloe for some 20 years and has been an active participant on many Box Parish clubs and institutions including Chairman of Box Selwyn Hall Management Committee.

Alan Payne

Sent from Windows Mail

From:

Sent: Tuesday, 29 September 2015 12:14

To: boxpeopleandplaces@yahoo.co.uk

Good morning: Not wishing to sound flippant but as a 'Rudlonian' I have never been so 'wanted' in my life; Box to retain us and Corsham to abduct us!

I would like to know:

Who? is the **individual** who thought up this grab and steal fiasco? ALL 'ideas' start with **one person** and only when initially outlined/offered/recommended/urged etc does the mass body of the individual's cohorts froth at the mouth with excitement and support!

From the outset WHY? were residents of the area in question not advised of the grabbing plan? That said, WHY? not ALL Box Parishioners; why? not, say, a referendum? (Doubtless because the result be obvious!)

Why? is a **Box Parish issue** being held in public in **CORSHAM**? Initially it was planned/booked for the Selwyn Hall in Box but postponed - due to the most lame of excuses ever heard - the pending General Election! (Let Box parishioners use their cars, spend on taxis/coach/bus etc or stay at home because Corsham is too far to go to unlike the nearby Selwyn Hall known to us all.)

Is there a compensation clause to this idea **IF**, God forbid, it is approved? Revenue lost by Box will be revenue gained/stolen by Corsham. And part of the gained/stolen revenue will be the higher charge for my Band D (and others') Council Tax Bill.

The notion that residents of the 'area being stolen' tend to shop etc in Corsham is poppycock! I (and many others I am sure) NEVER EVER shop in Corsham - the bank is the only place I visit IF I am not already in Chippenham!

Corsham is alien to many of us and we do not desire, want, need etc this 'Commrade Putin/Ukraine' onslaught.

One can go on and on but the message is clear; the whole concept is brutal and foolish and there has been total disregard towards residents of the area being stolen/grabbed. The individual who initially thought up this theft - and those who agreed with him/her - must realise they are not stealing/grabbing a plot of land/fields etc BUT an area where **PEOPLE live** and whose rights and voice have not only been totally ignored but never entered the equation of this grab and steal folly!

Tudor Jones

Rudloe Resident

Extract from e-mail from Ms A Keat

Dave,

I have just had the chance to read through the Community Governance Review you issued on July 25th '14. The second page, in which you list the effects of the changes to the boundary that you envisage, if you get your wish, really is a hotch potch of random thoughts brought up at one of your secret meetings. I say 'secret' because Charles Fuller, the Neston Councillor who was at the Box meeting on July 15th, had no idea that such changes had been mooted and certainly had not discussed them at Council meetings.

The sad thing is that you, and your team, quite obviously have no idea about the quality of life in a village like Box, where people appreciate the community far more than in a town like Corsham. We moved here in 1986 from Bath and have always felt secure in the knowledge that the Box team have our interests at heart. The Surgery is a case in point and an important focus for Box parishioners, as also the Churches, both Church of England and Methodist. I was not able to attend the meeting in Corsham Town Hall but mention was made about the Health and Social Care element in Box, goodness knows why as the village has three Nursing/Care homes and an active Community Nursing team.

The plans you have put forward would remove about one third of the income Box receives through the precept with little chance of raising monies to compensate this loss. There are no large developments envisaged, apart from Wadswick Green, in the Box area, whereas Corsham has several in the pipeline all of which will add to the income of Corsham.

I mentioned the 'random thoughts' in your list, several of which are just unsubstantiated, like the Broadwood School, whose pupils come from Rudloe, mainly, as Corsham children have the chance to attend several other schools in Corsham. If there are children affected by the boundary going through the estate what is wrong with Box having all the estate in its remit?

Using 'Chippenham parish' boundary as a reason for pinching part of Box is just a red herring as it has nothing to do with Box.

The idea that the changes will 'strengthen relationships with MOD Corsham and businesses to the west of Westwells, is ludicrous as many of the personnel live in Rudloe, within the Box area.

I could go on and on, picking holes in your arguments but I really cannot waste my time. I just hope that common sense will prevail and that your team give Box people the chance to state their case.

Sincerely, Anne Keat. (1, Clift Close, Rudloe, Wiltshire SN13 0JS 01225-810701)

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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

Extract from second e-mail from Jane Browning on 10 October 2015

Follow up report by Jane Browning concerning reaction of residents who have recently heard of the proposals.

Alan Payne

Sent from Windows Mail

From

Sent: Saturday, 10 October 2015 18:08

To: boxpeopleandplaces@yahoo.co.uk

Dear Alan,

A development today which has left some parishioners feeling totally bemused, uncomprehending, let down and wondering what the thought process is.

The rudloe scene website has a copy of the latest communication from Corsham Town Council dated 1 October. The map on it appears to show that the proposal is that the whole of the Rudloe estate moves to Box (some of it is now in Corsham) whilst all the surrounding area goes to Corsham. Some residents were totally unaware of **any** proposed changes, and are only now being included in any communication because they may have a change of local authority. Although dated 1 October, some residents did not receive it until today. I have seen a copy of it and it appears to have been done in a hurry - the legend to the map is handwritten, not typed.

The result would be a Box "island" surrounded by Corsham. No reasons were given. A recipe for misunderstanding between the 2 authorities if it went ahead.

Wednesday's meeting should be interesting.

Jane Browning

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Extract of e-mail from Mr J Currant 12 October 2015.

Dear John

Thank you for your very speedy reply earlier today. Much appreciated.

We are still receiving responses from residents such as John Currant below, the son of a long-established and well-respected Box family, which indicates how people feel that these proposals will destroy the community identity of Box.

Sorry to overload your inbox but I can assure you that these are only the people who have asked me to ensure their comments are sent to you.

Sincerely

Alan Payne

01225 743614

Sent from Windows Mail

From:

Sent: Monday, 12 October 2015 17:30

To: boxpeopleandplaces@yahoo.co.uk

Hopefully I am not too late but as my family have lived and worked in Box village for over a 100 years I am appalled by the actions of Corsham Council with so little consultation. Now we have a last minute change of proposal with no time to respond before the meeting on the 14th.

I left Box in 1961 and it was always my intention - God willing - to return upon retirement. This I managed 4 years ago and I have always called Box home even whilst living in London and Hertfordshire.

I feel this is the sense of identity being referred to and am proud of my history within the village. My father worked on the railway and was the steward of the Comrades Legion Club for many years.

I could go on but feel enough said.

Hopefully the STATUS QUO remains.

John Currant

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For The Attention of the Review Committee

I understand that the Committee is required to review this proposal by considering the consequences under various headings. Although I must declare my opposition to this completely pointless exercise in spending public money from the outset, I will list my objections in a logical way utilising the headings:

Parish Identity

I cannot see how the the inhabitants of Box can 'identify clearly ' with Corsham parish, particularly as Corsham is a town ie urban whilst Box is very much rural.

There is no doubt that there is a great feeling of animosity in Box towards the idea - 'the wishes of local inhabitants are primary considerations in the review.' As there have been no population shifts or additional development in the area, the proposal should fail at this first hurdle.

Parish Boundaries

As these boundaries have existed for a very long time already and already demonstrate the requirement of a buffer zone, there appears to be little reason for change. There might be a case for a minor change which would be to include all of the Rudloe Council estate within Box parish (instead of Corsham) which would tidy the boundary in that area, but for the rest - if it is not broken.....!!!!!!!!!!

Viability

Box parish is completely viable and meets all the requirements of the rules and regulations. The changes as proposed by Corsham Council would only destabilise the local funding of the whole area and result in nobody being happy apart from Corsham. With there being so much against the idea it does stir the imagination to wonder why the idea was proposed and what Corsham Council expect to gain from it.

Robin J Duxbury
19 Springfield Close
Rudloe
SN13 0JR
Box Parish

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Letter and email from Mr and Mrs D Brighten 13 October 2015

Dear Mr Watling,

My wife and I are residents of Box living on the Kingsdown Road. When the 'Parish Boundary Changes' were first proposed we wrote itemising the reasons why we felt (logically, economically and from a community perspective) that the *status quo* should be maintained. Most of these are encapsulated in the submission made by Box Parish Council this week, which we fully endorse. We have not spoken to any resident of the Village who would support the changes. Box is essentially a self sustaining, thriving community with a vibrant personality and active agenda. To become victim to the predations of a larger neighbour acting in a nefarious fashion will obviously engender a reaction - which is has done. The cancellation of the original meeting on the flimsiest excuse was inexcusable. Selwyn Hall, Box, is the obvious location for such a discussion as it is the venue with which most of the affected parties are familiar and have easiest access to. It is also the epicentre for the village's social activities. Moving to a fairly remote location out of the territory will mean that many of the residents will not be able to be present at the meeting - but cynically one may feel that fact did not escape the organisers attention. One may be tempted to observe that such surreptitious scheduling smacks of a group determined to 'railroad through' their agenda for change. We would love to receive tangible evidence to convince us to the contrary but suspect that it does not exist.

We also attach a copy of our original letter.

Richard & Denise Brighten



Richard & Denise Brighten

Berry Cottage, Blue Vein, Box, Corsham, WILTSHIRE, SN13 8DQ

Tel. 01225 744199 Mob. 07786 705497

E-mail rbrighten@gmail.com

Tuesday 22nd July, 2014.

Mr. John Watling,
Head of Electoral Services,
Wiltshire Council,
County Hall,
Trowbridge,
Wiltshire, BA14 8JN.

Dear

We are somewhat puzzled why certain authorities should consider that Parish Boundaries need to change in respect of Box. As far as we can ascertain all of the criteria regarding an established Parish are fulfilled. We have always been struck by the strong currents of identity and community in the village and steadfast strength of the Parish Structure. In conversations with neighbours, friends, other residents of Box and those with and without commercial interests we have not yet identified one who would welcome a boundary change. It is difficult to think of any population shifts or additional developments in the Parish which warrant or justify boundary adjustments.

On reflection it would seem to us that the existing boundaries are exemplary features of what they are planned to be and any meddling or adjustments will only add an artificiality to the *status quo*.

Our perspective is that the Parish is a well-balanced and efficient unit supplying the services and facilities required and desired by the residents. As with any viable working model there is always somebody, or an external force, that thinks change would provide improvement. The implementation of this attitude generally leads to disaster or a deterioration in a fluent, effective system. "If it ain't broke don't try and fix it" should be the watchword and Box certainly

ain't broke!! There is a complete litany of lost or depleted services that will occur if boundary changes were to be introduced. These we can list if required.

In these situations we believe that it should be the responsibility of those proposing amendments to identify themselves and prove conclusively that change would be beneficial to the affected rather than the affected having to defend their position. Transparency!!

Yours, not so faithfully,

Richard & Denise Brighten

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

30th April 2014

John Watling Esq.,
Head of Electoral Services,
Wiltshire Council,
County Hall,
Bythesea Road,
Trowbridge, BA14 8JN.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John'.

I understand that a consultation process is starting shortly for a Community Governance Review, as part of which Corsham Town Council have proposed that a very large part of Box Parish should be assimilated into Corsham Parish. I would be very grateful if you would take the following thoughts into consideration as you deal with the review.

First, if Chapel Plaister and Wadswick, both of which have always been part of North Wiltshire, were to be subsumed into Corsham Parish, there may well become a presumption in favour of changing the boundary of the Parliamentary constituencies of North Wiltshire and Chippenham to match, which I would very much regret.

More concerning than that is that Box Parish Council will lose a significant revenue generation to Corsham Town Council. While I can understand the rationale for moving Katherine Park into Corsham, I do not see why the other areas like Chapel Plaister, Wadswick and Lower Wadswick would benefit from being part of Corsham.

I am especially concerned about the financial implications for Box Parish Council, should the boundary change go ahead.

I would be grateful if you would keep me up to date on developments and register my objections to these plans.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop.

cc Mrs Margaret Carey, Clerk to Box Parish Council

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Mr John Watling
Head of Electoral Services
Wiltshire Council,
County Hall,
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Mr, Mrs Terry Allen
13 Kidston Way
Rudloe
Wiltshire
SN13 0JZ

25 July 14

Dear John,

PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES BY CORSHAM COUNCIL

Each household affected by the proposed changes received a flyer stating that there would be a Public meeting on 15 July 14 in Selwyn Hall Box to discuss the changes. We were told that one third of the Box Parish Residences would be affected and we believe that our lives would not be changed for the better and that there would be some disruption and loss of facilities that have been used by the Rudloe parishioners for many years.

Various items were discussed and some of those mentioned were facilities that we would lose which are listed below:

- (a). A good and well kept recreational area which include various sporting venue's.
- (b). The right to be buried in the Parish of Box which we would lose and would incur extra charges should we still wish to be buried there.
- (c). The loss of the Street Cleaner employed by Box Parish to cleans paths, walkway and cut grass when necessary in the local area.
- (d). No eligibility for allotments which are in demand.

The possible reasons for the boundary change were discussed and we could find no logical reason why the proposal was instigated other than for financial gain which we believe would happen when all new housing developments has been completed with the Box Parish area. Extra revenue would be in the form of council tax collected from all the new homes built within the area and from the existing houses.

We were informed that all the information the Box Council received was a letter containing the Map of the proposed changes. We would like to know who proposed the change and has it ever been discussed by Corsham Council.

We both believe that parishes should be viable and possess a precept that enables them too actively and effectively promote the well-being of all its residents and contribute to the

real provision of services in their areas in an economic and efficient manner, of which we are happy to say occurs in our Box community.

We would also point out that the wishes of the residents is paramount and electors in our Box Parish identify clearly with the community by adding strength to the Parish structure. Within Box, parishioners understand and recognise community interests and a sense of identity and the feeling of local community which we feel would be lost within the wider community of Corsham which is also a primary consideration in the review.

We bought our house many years ago after living within the community as members of the armed services and enjoy the life here with a sense of belonging and have made many friends with the Box parish we also enjoy the social and sporting events provided by the Box Parish Council and community and would not like to see it change.

Terry and I sincerely hope that you will see how passionate we are about our parish and support us by leaving the boundary as it is today so we can all live happily and content.

Yours sincerely
Terry & Wendy

I A B Johnston
5 Highlands Close
Rudloe
Corsham
Wiltshire SN13 0LA

01225-810533 (Home)
07702-433187 (Mobile)

i.johnston945@btinternet.com

Mr John Watling
Head of Electoral Services
Wiltshire County Council,
County Hall
Trowbridge,
Wiltshire BA14 8JN

July 2014

Dear Sir,

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW (CGR) 2014

May I place on record my formal objection to the proposal to move parts of Rudloe from the Parish of Box into the Parish of Corsham.

Rudloe currently sits within the Parish of Box, and the proposal to move some almost 450 properties from Box into Corsham represents approximately 30% of the parish of Box; this would bring into question the Viability of Box as a parish. There have been no significant population shifts or additional developments, and there is therefore little justification for making changes to the existing Parish Identity.

This proposal from Corsham has not (apparently) been discussed by the full Corsham Council, and is only an idea from the Planning Committee, which can only be viewed as a 'land grab' in order to offset any review from the East of Corsham by Chippenham and an effort to increase the Corsham Council income; I am informed that the Corsham parish precept is already higher than that in Box.

I have looked at the available evidence, and the justification and there are serious anomalies in the proposal. I have attached a list of the areas which Corsham hold could be resolved by the CGR, and have commented on each of them (my comments in red). If anything, the Western boundary of the Corsham Parish Boundary/Eastern boundary of Box Parish should follow the Bradford Road, which would leave Rudloe as a complete entity, unlike the divisive proposal from Corsham which, unfortunately, reveals a lack of local knowledge about Rudloe; this again weakens the case for Corsham's claims to 'take over' Rudloe.

I would be most grateful if you could ensure that I am informed in advance of the date, time and location of any County Council meetings which will discuss the issue as this is too important an issue to be discussed without full representation from the residents who might be affected by any change.

Thank you for your assistance, and I am happy to discuss further as necessary.

Yours faithfully

Iain Johnston

A Community Governance Review of Corsham could:

Correct parish boundary anomalies through Rudloe and Westwells; **Not correct as the proposal would leave the Rudloe properties on the West side of Leafy Lane in Box, with the East side in Corsham**

Replace the arbitrary parish boundaries which dissect and divide Rudloe housing estate and would avoid people living in different parishes to their neighbours; **Not correct, see above.**

Put in place clearer settlement boundaries and identities for Corsham and Box, based on fixed features which are likely to remain in place for many years. The current proposal follows the established and recognised AONB and A365 as boundaries; **Irrelevant as Wiltshire County Council ignored the AONB when granting planning permission to the Rudloe Hall Hotel a few years ago despite local opposition. The boundary could equally easily be the Bradford Road.**

Facilitate the future sustainable development and expansion of Corsham; **An unsubstantiated statement**

Provide clearer and effective governance of Corsham and Box, with more inclusive participation, representation and leadership; **Speculation, and probably incorrect.**

Offer more efficient, cost effective and convenient delivery of council services at a local level; **this needs to be quantified and specified; eg exactly what services are being proposed to be provided by Corsham?**

Enable a clear and effective Neighbourhood Plan to be produced for Corsham; **this is based on Corsham's perceived requirements without consideration for 'neighbours'.**

Build a stronger, cohesive and more engaged Rudloe community which feels part of one place; **this has not been evidenced in the past, as exemplified by the saga of the Rudloe Community Centre, and also, see para 1 above. Why do Corsham feel the need to build a stronger Rudloe community; it is already a strong community.**

- Improve democracy, electoral accountability and representation with increased elected representation in a new/merged ward; **again, this is an easy statement to make, but what does it actually mean?**
- Update out-of-date historic boundaries which have not been reviewed in over 100 years; **there have been previous opportunities to review the boundaries; this is not the first CGR in the last 100 years, so statement erroneous.**
- Strengthen relationships with MOD Corsham and businesses to the west of Westwells Road, promoting an economically vibrant community; **the (current MOD) area to the West of Westwells Road is annotated for housing development, so will cease to be part of MOD; this statement is misleading, but supports the economic justification for the boundary change, which is not a viable justification for a change.**
- Align the boundary to likely changes in housing and employment land as indicated in the Wiltshire Core Strategy and Wiltshire and Swindon Strategic Economic Plan; **this supports the economic motive behind the proposal**
- Bring Corsham Primary School (Broadwood site) into Corsham, where the majority of pupils reside; **I believe this to be incorrect. The majority of pupils live in the Rudloe area on the West side of the Bradford Road.**
- Provide a building block for the unitary council division ward boundaries; **this is purely a council administrative arrangement and does not add to the Corsham/Box case**
- Allow Chippenham parish to have a clearer settlement boundary, using the A350 as a boundary; **this is eminently sensible, but is irrelevant to the Corsham/Box issue.**

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STUART WHEELER,
CHAIR OF THE WORKING GROUP,
WILTSHIRE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW,
SN8 3BL

13 Napier Crescent,
Laverstock,
Salisbury,
Wiltshire SP1 1PJ.
Tel: 01722 328575
29 OCTOBER 2015

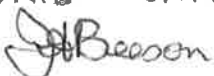
DEAR SIR,
COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW.

AS A LONG STANDING INHABITANT OF
LAVERSTOCK (SINCE 1957) WITH GREAT FAMILY TIES, I
WOULD LIKE YOU TO PLEASE TAKE NOTE AND RECORD
MY FOLLOWING SINCERE WISH.

I AM, AND REMAIN ADAMANT, THAT OUR
HAMPTON PARK AND RIVERDOWN PARK AREAS OF
OUR PARISH MUST REMAIN AFTER SO MUCH HARD
EFFORT HAS BEEN PUT IN TO DEVELOPING THEM
IN RECENT YEARS. NO WAY MUST THEY BE LOST
TO GREEDY SALISBURY CITY - ALSO BACKED UP BY
THE RESULT OF THE RECENT LAVERSTOCK PARISH
QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE OF 99.4%, VOTED TO
REMAIN AN INDEPENDANT LAVERSTOCK PARISH, THAT
INCLUDED HAMPTON PARK AND RIVERDOWN PARK.
THAT IS OUR POSITIVE RURAL RESPONSE. PLEASE
TAKE NOTE OF THIS.

IN THE SAME SPIRIT, I WOULD WELCOME
BISHOPDOWN FARM, TO ALSO JOIN LAVERSTOCK PARISH
COUNCIL. HOPEFULLY YOU AND YOUR WORKING GROUP
COULD CONSIDER THIS AS A POSSIBILITY ALSO.

THE CURRENT LAVERSTOCK PARISH AREA IS A
HAPPY AND FORWARD WORKING COMMUNITY FOR THE
FUTURE - DON'T SPOIL THIS - WITH CHANGE!

YOURS SINCEALY  (MR. J.A. BEESON),

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John Whitford
4. High Street
Box, Wilts.
SN13 8NB

Mr. John Watling
Head of Electoral Services,
Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Trowbridge
Wilts. BA14 8JN

05 October 2014

Dear Mr. Watling

Proposal by Corsham Council to change the boundary of Box parish

Posted to the Royal Naval Store Depot Copenacre in 1970, I resided in Corsham, with the exception of a period of service in Gibraltar until 1980, and I have been resident in Box since returning from a three year posting to Hongkong in 1983.

Box is a large village which possesses a strong sense of belonging, especially by "Boxonians" whose families have been resident for generations. This oneness, affects all, including relative newcomers such as my own family, and it would, in my opinion, be unforgivable should the viability of Box be destroyed by the proposals put forward by Corsham. This would occur should the bulk of the dwellings in Rudloe be lost. If there is any logic in local politics, the rump of Rudloe should be incorporated into Box, as has been pointed out by the Parish Council.

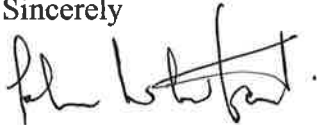
The item "Strengthen relationships with MOD Corsham and businesses to the west of West Wells road" typifies to me the weakness of Corsham Council's rationale and perplexes me as to what they really want. When I took up duty in 1970 as head of personnel and internal security, Copenacre had recently been upgraded by the Admiralty to a comprehensive Headquarters and Depot, in a fast growing electronic field, employing around 1200 personnel at Hartham, Monks Park and Spring Quarry, with a small factory unit a Leaffield. The staff were drawn fairly equally from Corsham and Box, Melksham and Chippenham.

All of my professional dealings were with the District Council, and other major employers in North Wilts. Westinghouse, Avon Rubber to name but two were represented on adult and youth employment committees chaired by District Council representatives. The Depot medical facilities, new entry medicals, assessment of long term sickness etc, were dealt with through Box Surgery. Other military establishments were also self supporting. HMS Royal Arthur, RAF Rudloe and the RAF Police HQ at the Manor, together with the Army school of Primary Education at what is now a different unit at Basil Hill Barracks, have virtually disappeared as has Copenacre. All that is left is the new build in Westwells road, a large office block with staff drawn from wherever. Corsham had little to do with the MOD (created 1966) when there was a significant presence in the area, what can they do now.

Corsham has grown significantly over the past 40 years, has lost a lot of Naval and Military activity and with the large housing estates culminating in Katherine Park, the town has become prima facie, more of a Dormitory for Bristol, Bath and even London. Box, however, has not significantly changed, there has been minor infill, but nothing to alter the tranquillity of village life, (other than the daily rush of commuters from Corsham and Chippenham on the A4)

I do apologise Sir, for this late submission, I am not politically minded, and belatedly put pen to paper after reading Box Parish Council's submission which I was able to download from the website. I was unable to find anything on the Corsham website, and trust that the foregoing may be of some use.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Whitford', written in a cursive style.

John Whitford

John Whitford
4. High Street
Box
Wilts. SN13 8NB



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

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Mr John Watling
Head of Electoral Services
Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

2 Kidston Way
Rudloe
Corsham
Wiltshire
SN13 0JZ
19 August 2014

Dear Sir,

Community Governance Review – UPDATE 25 July 2014

I have studied the above review and the reasons Corsham Town Council propose for the boundary re-alignment resulting in the control of Rudloe being transferred from Box to Corsham.

From the information I have received I see no benefit to those who are under the control of Box Parish Council if the proposal were to proceed. The reasons given to date are that the current boundaries do not take into consideration where communities are and assume that by re-alignment they can provide better and more efficient services as well as greater integration of those communities. These reasons seem to be more aspirational rather than factual.

I have lived in Rudloe for 10 years and have an affinity with Box under whose control has actively and effectively provided services in our area. I believe if that control were to be moved from Box to Corsham our Community Charge will be increased to reflect that of Corsham and Box will have to increase their charge to compensate for the lost revenue.

The proposed benefits set out are not tangible and seek to convince that boundary re-alignment will deliver a greater sense of identity assuming that those affected are not content with the current status. As far as I am concerned the current status works well so why change it for reasons which have not been clearly articulated. A far more convincing case should be submitted providing factual benefits to those who will be directly affected as opposed to the beliefs of what may or may not be achieved.

Some of the facts against the proposal are:

- There have been no population shifts or additional development in the area under review.
- There are already easily identifiable boundaries.
- Implementation of the proposals will render Box Parish no longer viable.
- Loss of services will include the street cleaner, Leafy Lane grass cutting & footpath clearance.
- Fees doubled to be buried as non-parishioners.
- No eligibility for our allotments.

I await promulgation of some facts in support of the proposal so I can be convinced of the benefits, especially to the residents of Rudloe and Box.

Yours faithfully

N Crocker

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Mr John Watling
Head of Electoral Services
Wiltshire Council
Trowbridge
BA14 8JN

2 Kidston Way
Rudloe
Wiltshire
SN13 0JZ

19th August 2014

Dear Mr Watling

Re: PROPOSAL BY CORSHAM COUNCIL FOR A BOUNDARY CHANGE UNDER THE
COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

I am writing, as a resident of Box Parish, to object to the above proposal by Corsham to incorporate Rudloe under the above Review.

I have lived in Box Parish for over 30 years. One of the reasons we bought our house in the area was because we wished to live in a village community and that holds true for me today. I have no association with Corsham. My identity is linked to Box Parish in everyday life. My Church, doctors surgery, chemist, butcher and other local businesses are all situated in Box.

Corsham Council state anomalies with the boundaries affecting Rudloe and Westwells need to be corrected to enable neighbours to be live in the same parish and to build a stronger and more engaged Rudloe Community. I fervently believe Box Parish already has this strong and engaged community and there is no problem identifying its boundaries. There are a wealth of Clubs and Societies available to bring people, both young and old, together in the Parish. My friends and neighbours live in Box parish..

Corsham Council say they have a desire to provide the best service possible to all communities. Box already does this efficiently and effectively.

By pursuing their ambitions all Corsham Council will be doing, as far as I am concerned, is increasing their revenues to the detriment of Box Parish. Corsham already have a higher parish rate than Box Parish, but Box would have to increase their parish rate if they lose one third of their housing. Why on earth would anybody think this enforced situation would be better for Rudloe and Box residents?

If Rudloe parishioners are absorbed into Corsham we would have to pay more to be buried in Box Parish. We would have no eligibility for allotments and I believe our footpaths would suffer.

From the information provided by Corsham Council I cannot see that there is any benefit for the residents of Rudloe or Box were these proposals to be adopted.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Elizabeth Arkell

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Dear Jane
copy of my response to
Corsham submission

Best wishes
Margaret

28
Pine Close
Rudloe
Box
SN13 0LB

Mr John Watling
Head of Electoral Services
Wiltshire County Council
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

16th September 2014

Dear Mr Watling

I have recently read the Corsham Town submission regarding their rationale for boundary changes and am incensed at the unsubstantiated statements they make

Most of the points they make are a good case for transferring some of the Rudloe houses from Corsham to Box, rather than the other way round. There appears to be no evidence to support the Corsham town Council's assertions.

Corsham Town Comment: Replace the arbitrary parish boundaries which dissect and divide Rudloe housing estate and would avoid people living in different parishes to their neighbours. T

Response: The majority of houses in Rudloe are within Box Parish Boundary (approx. 400 out of 500); there will be changes for fewer residents if the boundary change is reversed i.e. transferred from Rudloe to Box. This achieves the objective of replacing the arbitrary boundary between neighbours in Rudloe.

Corsham Town Comment: Put in place clearer settlement boundaries and identities for Corsham and Box, based on fixed features which are likely to remain in place for many years. The current proposal follows the established and recognised AONB and A365 as boundaries

Response: Current boundaries already offer clear boundaries. Moving the smaller number of houses to Box from Corsham will achieve the Corsham Town Council objective. Future housing development may well change the local scene, however many areas within England currently demonstrate that this is not an issue for councils. For major issues it is possible for Councils to communicate and work together.

Corsham Town Comment: Facilitate the future sustainable development and expansion of Corsham

Response: This comment is from the Corsham point of view. Whilst they may wish to increase their area, the impact of their ambitions on Box must be considered impartially. Any boundary change MUST ensure the sustainability of Box Parish. The 2010 census indicates a population in Corsham of c13, 000 and in Box of 3,500. . Rightly or wrongly I anticipate that decreasing the population of Box would adversely affect the efficiency of Box Parish Council with no compensatory gain for local residents. There is a proposal to include some of Chippenham within the Corsham population. This would assist in the expansion of Corsham. I am not commenting on the impact of that proposal.

Corsham Town Comment: Provide clearer and effective governance of Corsham and Box, with more inclusive participation, representation and leadership

Response: It is laudable that Corsham should aim to provide clear and effective governance for its own residents. To the best of my knowledge there is no evidence that Box Parish Council is failing in its governance. With regard to 'inclusive participation, representation and leadership', local residents already participate in the Box community rather than Corsham. Previous experience over many years has demonstrated a lack of participation by Corsham Town Council with those Rudloe Residents within their boundaries. My statement is based on experiences as a Trustee of Rudloe Community Centre and multiple appeals to Corsham Town Council for their participation and assistance, which never elicited a response of any sort.

Corsham Town Comment Offer more efficient, cost-effective and convenient delivery of council services at a local level.

Response: Increasing the size of a council decreases its convenient delivery and responsiveness to local needs as the needs of the majority overwhelm the needs of the minority. Reducing the population base of Box will reduce its opportunities for efficiency and effectiveness.

Corsham Town Comment: Enable a clear and effective Neighbourhood Plan to be produced for Corsham.

Response: moving the boundary will have no positive impact on Corsham Town Council's ability to produce a neighbourhood plan for Corsham. Quite the reverse, an increased population base will adversely affect the effective engagement of neighbourhood plans. Planning Portal Guidance indicates that neighbourhood plans should cover a maximum of 5,000 residents, therefore the proposed boundary changes will hinder, not aid, the production of a neighbourhood plan for Corsham.

Corsham Town Comment: Build a stronger, cohesive and more engaged Rudloe community which feels part of one place.

Response: where is the evidence? Many residents, me included, already feel part of the Rudloe/Box community. In fact the Box church has an outreach service in Rudloe; moving Rudloe into Corsham with decreases the cohesiveness in the Rudloe community.

Corsham Town Comment Improve democracy, electoral accountability and representation with increased elected representation.

Response: How does this work? Wouldn't increasing a population base dilute the views of the minority? Are the current democracy, electoral accountability and representation within Box unacceptable? Is it demonstrably evident in Corsham Town Council – with it' track record of making these proposals without involving the community it is annexing?

Having listened to debates and read documents I remain convinced that the proposed boundary move of Rudloe from Box to Corsham will not be to the advantage of Rudloes residents or Box Parish.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Rousell



Meadow View
Henley
Box
Wiltshire
SN13 8DB

15th October 2015

Dear People considering boundary changes

Changes to the Corsham Boundary

I attended the consultation at the Springfield Centre last night and would like to make a few points:

The main reason given for the changes were that it was an exercise in tidying up the boundaries and then too, a support for new communities:

I just don't get it! What, administratively speaking, difference does a wiggly line make, has the request come from some graphics department because they are unable to draw wiggly lines anymore? And regarding the land the far side of the A350 bordering Chippenham, surely the simplest and easiest aesthetic answer would be to continue the existing northern boundary of the highlighted area along the watercourse (river) to fill in the area and bring the whole lot into Corsham, that would tidy it up much simpler. The reasoning behind the suggested plan was not fully explained.

And as for tidying up the lines in Box this clearly doesn't work either as the bottom section of the area remains clearly jagged.

Anyway all this tidying up is really a superficial reason and a façade. The people of the concerned areas have clearly not been consulted enough and little local debate has taken place. It appears from my point of view, that this is wholly in the case of Corsham and particularly in Box an exercise in bureaucrats needing to validate themselves and their work, and an unnecessary and costly exercise. It may be an opportunity for a review, but in my opinion we are ok thanks.

Many farms, hamlets and communities in the area are split over parish boundaries already, and yet don't shout about split identity. People will identify themselves with the people and places that are most meaningful to them, one cannot enforce a change.

Essentially I am writing to keep Box and Corsham as they are. There was no mention as to what benefit Corsham has in giving away land to Chippenham, once its gone its gone. And if there is to be a change I am in support of Box Parish Council's suggestion of embracing the fewer homes in Rudloe that are at present in 'Corsham' into Box.

I am also writing to say that there appears to be a total lack of reasoning why or need to mess with any of the boundaries and that those who have motioned the idea are not being clear, justified and transparent with the motives, The benefits to those living in the area were not given nor were the benefits of letting go parcels of land made clear. Also, it is really not justifiable as I can see either not to be able to talk about the money involved, any money effecting changes for the parishes or knock on effects to

council charges etc, for individuals and councils alike. Where did that 'rule' come from??? In these days of austerity and financial accountability I think it is disgusting that this is not being approached in an open and accountable way, so that individuals can consider financial consequence.

That's it for now
Yours truly

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally Mitchell".

Sally Mitchell

Letter of 21 July and email of 12 October 2015 from Mr G Jones

35 Highlands Close

Rudloe

Corsham

Wiltshire

SN13 0LA

Mr J Watling
Head of Electoral Services
Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

21st July 2014

Dear Sir

RE: Proposed Parish Boundary Change - Part of Rudloe and Wadswick moving from Box to Corsham

I strongly object to the proposed boundary change as quite clearly it is a land grab for the following reasons:-

- Corsham will gain with more proposed house building becoming available.
- With approximately 450 properties moving from Box Parish to Corsham Town, Corsham gains substantially from the Council Tax Town Precept.
- Box on the other hand loses the Council Tax Parish Precept for approximately 450 properties.
- The remaining properties in Box can now expect their Council Tax Parish Precept to rise to make up what has been lost from Rudloe and Wadswick to enable them to be to maintain their assets such as the tennis courts, bowling green, cemetery lodge, war memorial, Box common, blind house plus many more.

- Rudloe and Wadswick will lose the following services:-
 - There will be no street cleaner.
 - The grass at the top of the A4 and Leafy Lane will not be cut.
 - The footpaths will not be cleared.
 - The fee to be buried in Box cemetery will double as I am no longer a Box parishioner.
 - I will not be eligible for an allotment.
- Rudloe and Wadswick residents will find their Parish Precept rise as Corsham's is substantially higher than that of the Box Precept.
- I have lived in Rudloe for the last 42 years and clearly identify Rudloe and Wadswick as part Box Parish together with all the services and recreational activities they provide.
- There has been no population shifts or additional development that have led to different community identity with historic traditions.
- Boundaries between parishes should reflect a buffer between communities; these boundaries already exist and are easily identifiable.
- Valuable Council Tax revenue is being spent on the proposed Parish Boundary change, which could have been spent on essential services.
- Richard Tonge, County Councillor for Corsham Without and Box Hill in an email to me states 'I am against the change as I can see no advantage for Box'.

I sent an email to Ruth Hopkinson, Chairman of the Corsham Town Council and to Councillor Peter Antsey, as in the past he was a resident of both Rudloe and Wadswick, requesting a list of the benefits for the residents of both Rudloe and Wadswick if this proposal is accepted. As neither has taken the trouble to reply to the emails the only conclusion I can make is that there are absolutely no benefits at all for the residents of both Rudloe and Wadswick and therefore as I said initially I strongly object to this proposal.

Yours sincerely

Graham D Jones

Email of 12 October John

I wrote to you on the 21st July 2015 with by reasons why this proposal should not go through, a copy of this letter is attached.

I have just seen the Corsham Town Councils revised proposal, which has not addressed any of the objections I made in July. Also the original meeting for this review was to be in Box at the Selwyn Hall, now it is in Corsham a move which I suspect Corsham Town Council hope Box and Rudloe residents will not go on a cold October night.

This boundary change is just a land grab for future housing and with an increase in revenue for Corsham at the expence of Box.

I see an alternative proposal is for the Rudloe Estate to be moved into Box, this one can only assume is to give Box back some lost revenue.

This now leaves an island of Box Parish in Corshams Parish. How can this be making clear settlement boundaries between Box and Corsham.

I have lived in Rudloe since 1972 and clearly identify Rudloe as part of Box Parish together with all the services and recreational activities they provide so please not my strong objection to this proposal by Corsham Town Council.

Regards

Graham D Jones

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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



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Second email from Mr T Jones 15 October 2015

Dear John

Please see follow-up email from Tudor Jones. As you see, the antagonism of some Rudloe residents to Corsham's proposals does not diminish. Everyone I met today in Box seems to be talking about their anger at both the process and the proposal, as well as their anxiety about the decision that Wiltshire Council will eventually arrive at.

Sincerely

Alan Payne

From:

Sent: Thursday, 15 October 2015 12:13

To: boxpeopleandplaces@yahoo.co.uk

I arrived at the meeting at 8pm after a personal meeting which I was obliged to attend. My missive is 'emotional' and I opined that delivery at the meeting would have been counter-productive.

'Emotion' is of course widespread with this grab-and-take-over plan; there should have been a Box Parish referendum from the outset; of course the outcome is obvious hence no reference to the parishioners. A simple YES/NO speaks volumes by those who cannot see the logic of this land-grabbing plan and DO NOT want it; readily to mind comes the feeling (indeed the fact?) of 'to hell with the people therein, they matter not.'

With Voltaire in mind, our selfish land-grabbing and pathetic 'leaders' seemed to imply "*I disagree with everything you say but defend to the death your right to say it!*" Democracy? The meeting, in my opinion, was "*shrouded democracy*"; let the 'peasants have their say' seemed so Victorian and currently Communistic.

Tudor Jones

Sent from Windows Mail

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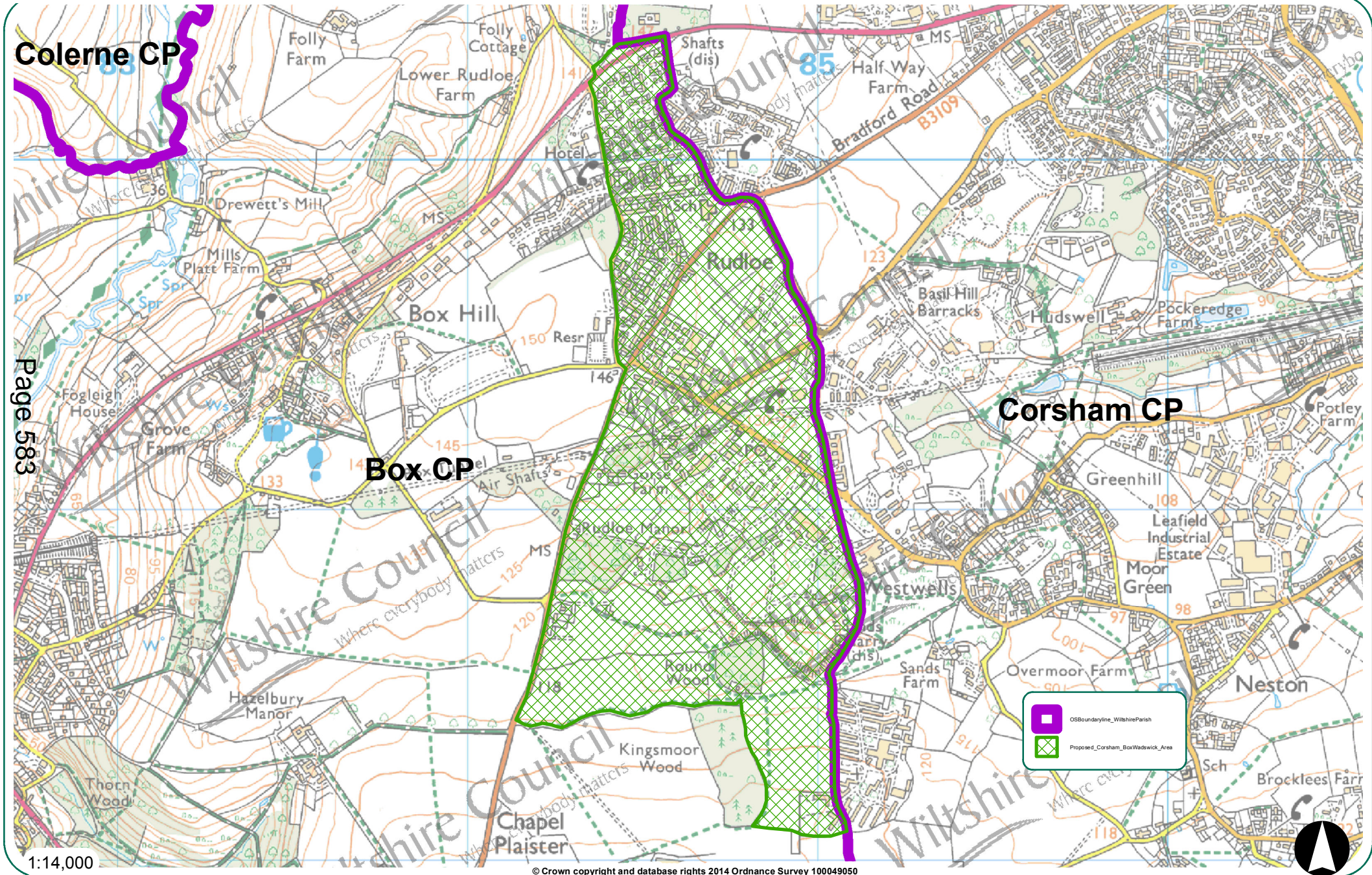
Area A8 - Corsham and Box

Mapping

- Scheme 40 and 41 - Area A8 - Corsham and Box Area Map 2
- Scheme 40 and 41 - Area A8 - Corsham and Box Area Map 3 at 14000 scale
- Scheme 40 and 41 - Area A8 - Corsham and Box Area Map 3
- Scheme 42 - Area A8 - Corsham and Chippenham A350 Map 1

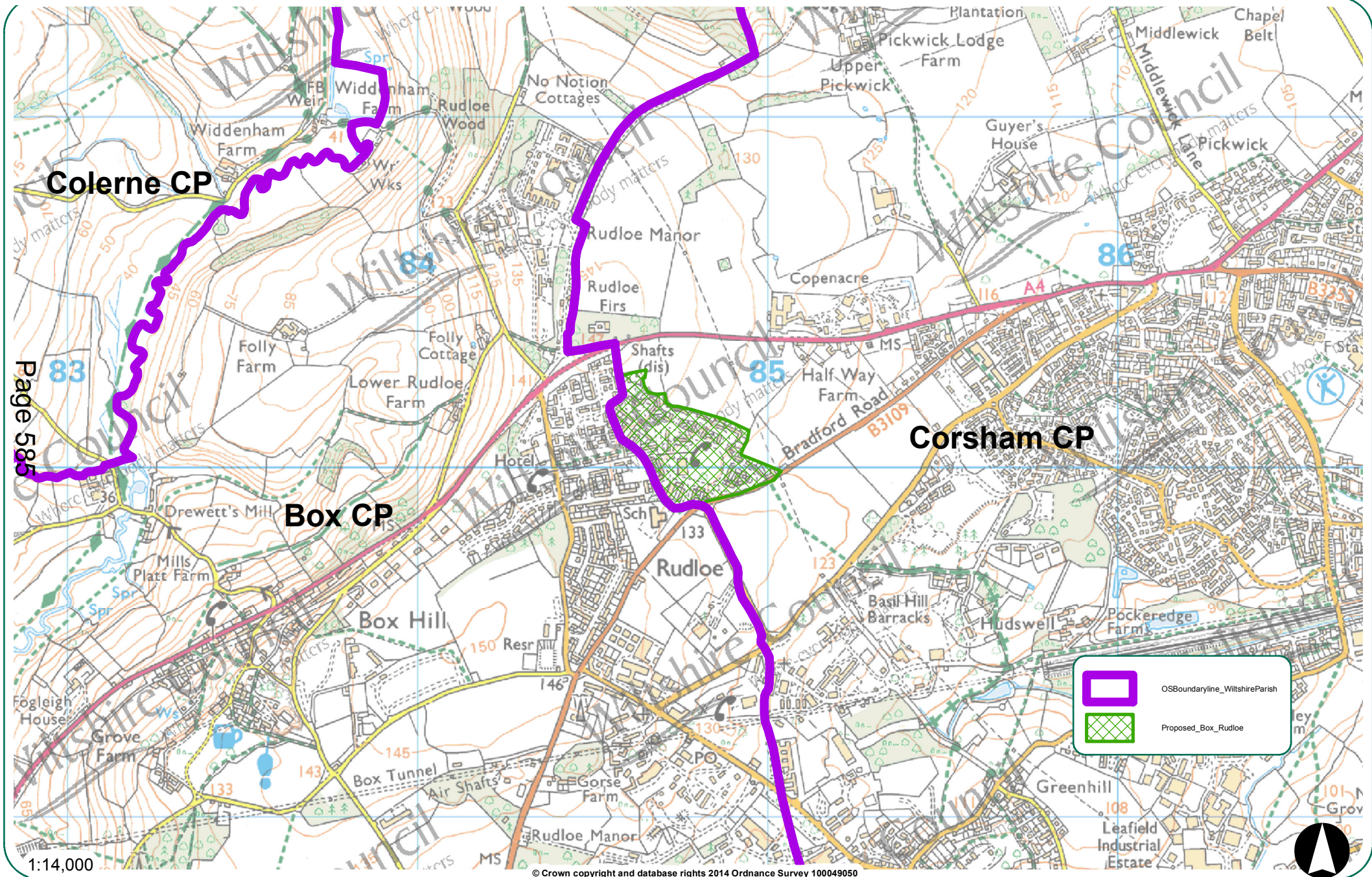
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Area A8 - Corsham and Box Area Map 2
Rudloe Area excluding Wadswick

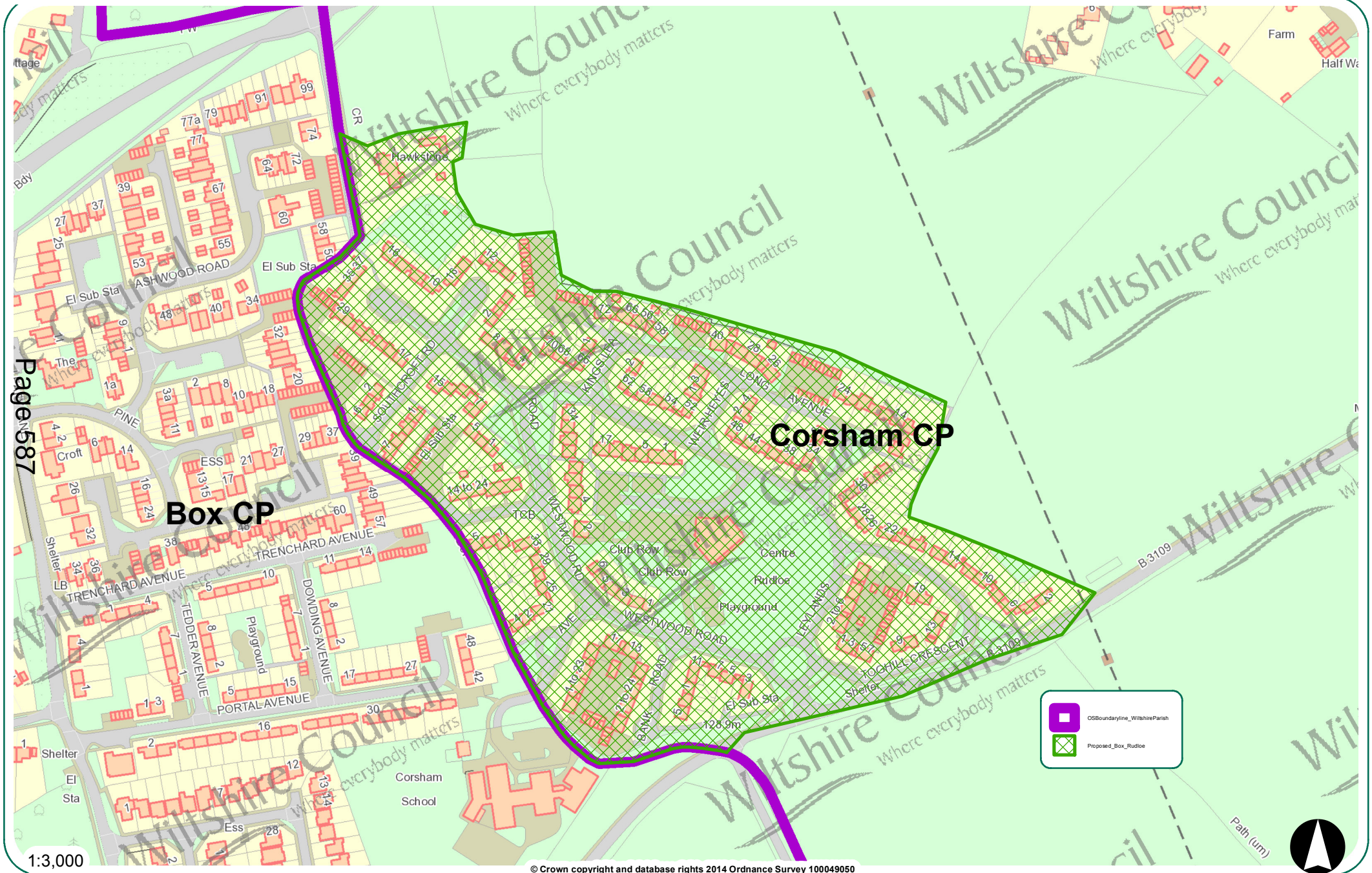


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Area A8 - Corsham and Box Area Map 3
Rudloe Area (part) scale 14:000

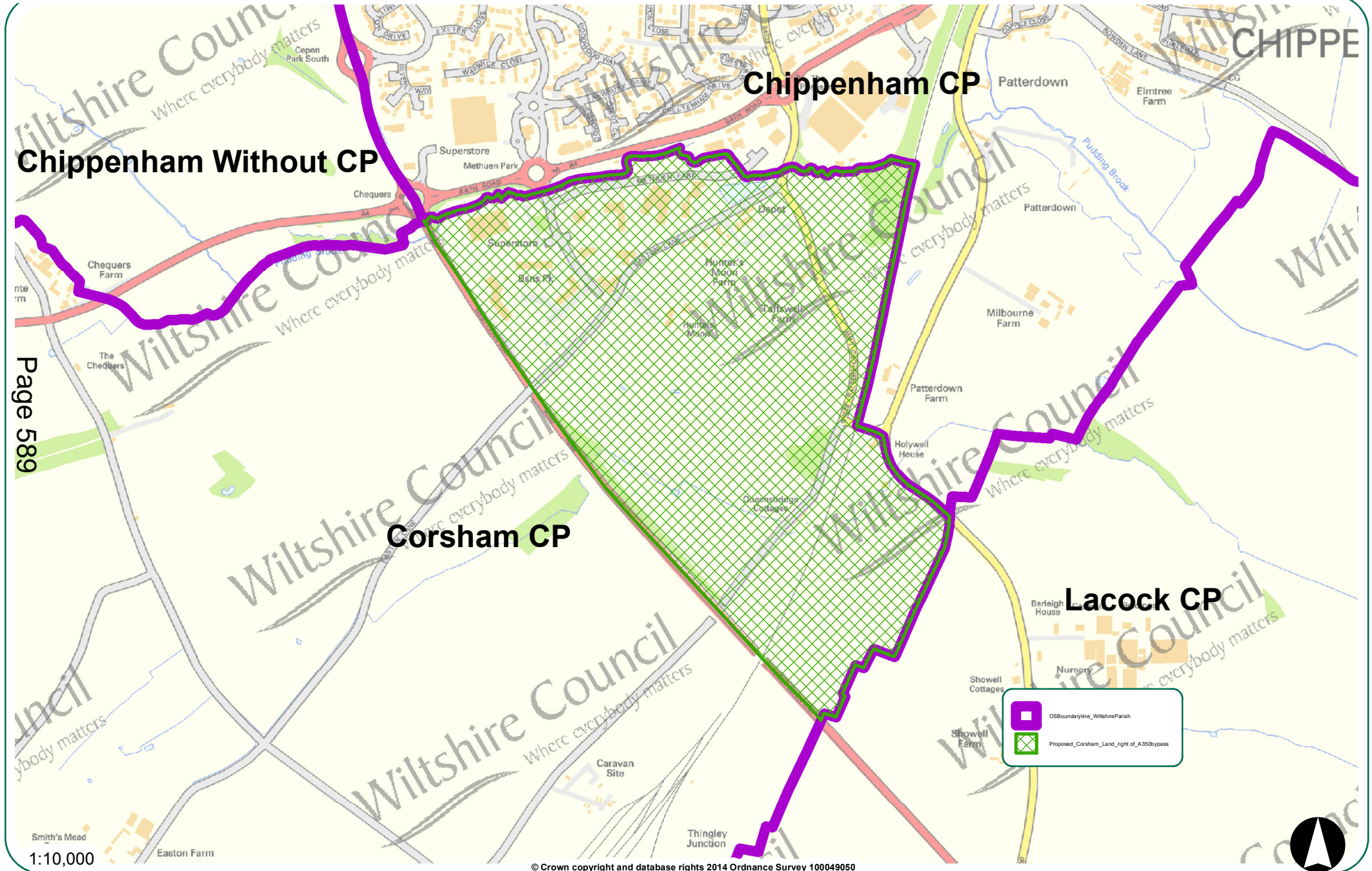


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Area A8 - Corsham and Box Area Map 1
A350 Area between Corsham and Chippenham



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