

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