

Community Governance Review

Test Valley Borough Council

Responses received during first round of consultation

Introduction

The first period of consultation ran for 11 weeks from 13 November 2017 and to 29 January 2018. This period of consultation asked for proposals on changes to existing parish arrangements within Test Valley.

109 responses were received during the consultation period. Where consultation responses contain information that could lead to the identification of private individuals, this information has been anonymised or redacted.

Responses

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1. Vernham Dean

1.1. Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

See item 4.1.

2. Linkenholt

2.1. Steven Lugg – Chief Executive of Hampshire Association of Local Councils

The Hampshire Association of Local Councils is the representative body for parish and town councils across Hampshire, and is the biggest county association in England. We have a membership of 90% of the parishes in Hampshire with customers across England, particularly in the areas of Organisational development, HR, and learning and development.

We are pleased to be able to comment on the current CGR.

Our proposed amendment would be to subsume the parish meetings of Linkenholt and Buckholt into a neighbouring parish(es) as might be locally agreed, as these meetings have not met for some time. This was actually an agreed action back in 2013 with Tom van der Hoven, due to their inaction and lack of governance.

Nonetheless if there were local opposition, we would withdraw the amendment. Local feelings should be paramount!

3. Facombe

No consultation responses have been received in relation to Facombe parish.

4. Hurstbourne Tarrant

4.1. Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

As you will be aware, the village of Upton is divided between the Parishes of Hurstbourne Tarrant and Vernham Dean. Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council considered the fact that a village with the unique situation of having a parish boundary bisecting it, may mean the community felt that some things worked and some didn't. The community governance review would give options to shape future decisions, and it was important that the community was able to put forward its views. This was also the opportunity to ensure that local councillors were accessible and could represent these views appropriately and effectively.

A village meeting was held on 17th January 2018 in Upton. Nineteen members of the Upton community attended the meeting, as well as three representatives from Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council and two from Vernham Dean.

The CGR was explained and that neither Parish Council were actively seeking change. Both Chairmen had agreed that there would be no proactive approach to Test Valley to change the boundaries *unless* this was what the community wanted.

Various concerns were raised by residents, including council reaction to flooding, school catchment areas, and broadband failings, and whether being in one Parish or another would change any of this. After discussions, those residents in attendance were asked to vote whether they felt they would wish to remain being covered by two parish councils, or whether they would prefer the whole village to be governed by one. Fourteen voted for the village to remain within the two parish areas, four voted to be under the governance of just Hurstbourne Tarrant and one voted to be within Vernham Dean's parish area.

Therefore, this letter is to advise you that neither Parish Council will be seeking any changes to current Parish arrangements regarding the village of Upton and its unique boundary situation.

Furthermore, Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council will not be seeking any changes to its own Parish arrangements regarding any other area.

5. Tanglely

No consultation responses have been received in relation to Tanglely parish.

6. Enham Alamein

6.1. Enham Alamein Parish Council

Enham Alamein Parish Council considered this in some depth at it's December Full Council meeting and resolved the below response.

I reproduce the Minute below, for your information:

'The Chairman advised that there has been communication between Andover Town Council, Smannell Parish Council and Enham Alamein Parish Council in light of the current consultation on the Community Governance Review. Members agreed with the formal stance of suggesting the potential of including Olympic Park into Andover Parish as part of the Test Valley Borough Council's Community Governance Review. The Parish Clerk was instructed to formally respond to Test Valley Borough Council with this agreed position'.

It would be appreciated if this could be recorded as the formal response of the Enham Alamein Parish Council to the consultation.

7. Smannell

7.1. Smannell Parish Council

Under the TVBC ward boundary changes, Smannell Parish will be split with Augusta Park becoming part of the Romans Ward of northern Andover urban areas and the villages becoming part of the rural Bourne Valley Ward. Traditionally Smannell Parish has been rural with some 113 households in the hamlets of East Anton, Finkley, Little London, Smannell, Upper Enham and Woodhouse with a CoE school, a pub, a church, playing fields, a little light industry in converted farm buildings and with the majority of the land agricultural and woodland.

Augusta Park covers about 15% of the area of the Smannell Parish and is bordered by Andover Town to the south and west. The estate will have over 2,750 dwellings, with a community centre, schools, convenience store, place of worship, children's play areas, pub and playing fields. It may be seen that Augusta Park forms an extension to Andover town and will have the same urban needs, costs, advantages, problems and identity. This is reflected by:

- Test Valley Council web site refers to the area as "East Anton (Augusta Park) Andover", similarly the developer's sales web sites refer to "Augusta Park, Andover",
- new bus routes from Andover have been put in place to service Augusta Park but do not serve the parish rural areas.
- the church parish boundary was legally changed in 2014 to make all Augusta Park part of the same parish as the other areas of the Romans Ward where previously part of the estate was in the Smannell with Enham Alamein church parish.

Whilst Augusta Park has a sense of identity the boundary between Enham Alamein Parish and Smannell Parish runs illogically through the development with no split or definition between the two parts. The Augusta Park Community Association organises various activities and manages its Community Centre for the estate's residents. The Centre holds leisure activities, has meeting rooms and a pre-school. Smannell Parish Council use the Association to help identify the estate's needs. Though an integral part of Andover it currently has no say on the Andover Town Council.

There is a designated Local Gap between Augusta Park and the rural areas of Smannell and Enham Alamein parishes. With new builds and new planning permissions the number of dwellings in the parish's rural area shows almost no change from the entire parish's traditional level. The parish has social events run by the Little London Playing Fields. With only some 5% of households within the current parish boundary the rural area of the parish has the concern that in future, with or without parish warding arrangements, their voice will not be properly heard.

The Boundary Commission split of the parish between Romans and Bourne Valley wards reflected their different identities, one as a part of Andover the other as rural. These identities would best be served in redrawing the boundary between Smannell Parish and Andover Town. The change would also prevent Andover being divided into two camps. The Augusta Park Community Association will continue properly to serve the social needs and maintain a spirit of identity within their community.

8. Andover

8.1. Andover Town Council

Please note the attached response was approved by the full Town Council at its meeting held last night (25 January 2018).

i. **Historical background:**

Andover parish was originally established from the unparished area in and around the town. This left some anomalies, principally the existing urban development of Burghclere Down which was in and remained in the parish of Abbots Ann and the proposed development at East Anton/Augusta Park which was within the parish of Smannell. Development subsequently extended into Enham Alamein parish.

Andover parish was established with five wards mirroring the existing five borough wards with four councillors for four wards and three only for Alamein. This reflected the fact that Alamein ward also contained Smannell and Enham Alamein parishes.

To enable Andover parish to reflect the identity and interests of the community and to be both effective and convenient, Andover Town Council believes that the Town Council's wards should mirror Test Valley Borough Council's wards, which encompasses all the urban development in Andover.

The above requires some revisions to the existing boundaries as outlined below.

ii. **Augusta Park:**

August Park lies to the immediate north east of Andover. Many local residents have moved from the town into the new development and the majority consider that they live in Andover. Augusta Park uses all the amenities in Andover for work, shopping, bus and train transport and medical centre needs. Borough ward proposals envisage this area being part of a wider community including Roman Way and Cricketers Way. If effective local governance for Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) at borough level views the combined communities of Augusta Park/Roman Way/Cricketers Way as a single entity the same should apply to the parish ward and boundary.

iii. **Burghclere Down:**

Burghclere Down lies on the south-west urban fringe of Andover and has poor links to the adjoining parish of Abbots Ann. It is separated from the remainder of the parish by the A303 and logically is part of Andover rather than Abbots Ann. The obvious southern boundary of Andover and its parish is the A303 which provides a clear line to define the community. TVBC have included Burghclere Down within Millway ward reflecting their community identity of being within the town of Andover. Children from Burghclere Down attend schools in Andover, the buses run only into Andover for shops, medical and leisure facilities and connection with the railways. There are no transport or footpath links with Abbots Ann. Andover Town Council feel that as Burghclere Down is included in the Borough ward of Millway that the area should also be included in the parish ward of Millway.

iv. **Monxton Road:**

The military estate, Andover Business Park and surrounding areas on Monxton Road are south and west of the A303 and relate more to the surrounding semi-rural area rather than

the town. This area is designated as part of Anna ward in the borough review. Being a mainly military community, it has minimal links with the town. As the proposed southern boundary of Andover and Millway wards is the A303 it is logical that this area be transferred from Andover to Abbots Ann parish.

v. Other points:

As outlined above Andover Town Council believes the southern boundary of the parish should, where possible, follow the A303. Within the current borough proposals there are some anomalies which should be addressed.

- A small area to the south of the A303 and west of Salisbury Road is currently (borough ward proposals) designated as part of Millway ward. This should transfer to Abbots Ann Parish.
- The property called Andover Manor lies south of the A303 but north of the A303 slip road and west of Winchester Road (A3057). Residents here have always identified with Andover for usage of shops, medical facilities and transport. We would like to suggest that the boundary at this point follows the slip road of the A303.
- The boundary between the parishes of Andover, Goodworth Clatford and Upper Clatford along the southern part of the A303 is not clearly defined. Andover Town Council suggests that this needs further clarification so all parishes are clear where the boundary lies.

We have identified a further anomaly in the proposed borough ward boundaries within the parish where a small number of houses on the southern side of Western Road are allocated to Millway ward. The logical boundary between the two wards is Western Road with these properties lying in Winton ward.

vi. Andover Downlands:

The recent borough boundary review has identified the new communities of Picket Twenty and Picket Piece linking community connections with Andover Down. This area making up the sixth ward for the borough. For effective local governance Andover Town Council feel that this should be reflected within parish ward boundaries.

vii. In Summary:

- 1) Andover Town Council requests that the Andover parish boundary be aligned with the proposed six urban borough wards of Test Valley i.e. Millway, Harroway, Romans, St Mary's, Winton and Downlands.
- 1) Andover Town Council are content with the borough ward boundaries for the above six wards except for the minor adjustments outlined and requested above.
- 2) Andover Town Council requests that the parish ward boundaries be realigned to those of the new borough wards and that Andover parish has the same number of councillors i.e. three each for Millway, Harroway Romans and St Mary's and two each for Winton and Downlands. The total number of councillors for Andover parish would be sixteen.

8.2. Liberal Democrats – Andover and District Branch

The Andover & District Branch of the Liberal Democrats supports the proposals put forward by Andover Town Council on a cross-party basis with respect to the community governance review. We strongly believe that the Andover Town boundaries should include the highly

urbanised contiguous areas such as Burghclere Down. The town council wards should be the same as those for TVBC as this makes things easier in terms of administration and public accountability. We are also in favour of having the same number of councillors per ward whether TVBC or Town Council.

8.3. Andover resident

[Andover Manor resident requested that their property be transferred from Upper Clatford parish to Andover town].

8.4. Andover resident

Living in Andover, I'm mainly interested in changes the new proposals may bring to our town. I wish there was a little more discussion on the proposal apart from the new boundaries within the current Andover Town Council area offered in the documentation: should the changes go forward, what does it mean to the governance of the town, are there going to be smaller councils for the proposed wards within Andover town? In that case, I would oppose the change, as dividing a town, and presumably its finances, is potentially damaging to its infrastructure, facilities and services. I am, however, not sure if I correctly understand the proposals, and am in favour of representing the local people more equally, which the proposals seem to be aiming for.

8.5. Andover resident

My understanding is that Andover Town Council (ATC) does not have all the responsibilities of a town or parish council as detailed in the LocalGov.co.uk list. If this is the case I would ask that one of the recommendations of the Governance Review is that all the responsibilities of a parish council be transferred to the ATC or the future of the ATC itself be reviewed.

8.6. Andover resident

I live within the Andover Town area.

I have never understood why this "Parish" was created (unless it was as a sop to those who thought Romsey did better as a "Town Council").

I do not believe there have been any proper elections to this Council since the initial one that set it up.

New members have been co-opted onto the council, and anyone who cannot see that this has resulted in cronyism on the council is not looking properly at the members.

Additionally, if we must have an Andover Town Council, why is there still in the annual Community Charge bill a section for "Andover Special Expenses"?

This seems like a good chance to sort out these anomalies and get local politics back to where the people might want to engage with Councillors.

One other comment - why does Abbots Ann Parish Council have part of the Burghclere Down estate within its boundary? Easy to correct that by making the boundary stay on the Anna Valley side of the A303. At least then if you must continue Andover Town Council the area with the town limits will all be part of the same parish.

8.7. Andover resident

I live on [redacted] Andover and would wholeheartedly agree with the abolition of the Andover Town Council. I voted against its creation originally and have seen nothing to make me change my mind.

It does very little, the office is often closed, it simply adds another layer of bureaucracy along with the associated costs. It leaves people not knowing if they need to approach ATC or TVBC about matters.

We have a TVBC mayor and then ATC seemed to decide to create their own Town mayor as well. More cost.

Lets make life simpler and more cost effective and just stick to a Borough Council.

8.8. Local resident

I would like to give my views on the usefulness of the Andover Town Council.
As an allotment tenant for many years I have noticed a severe decline in the way the allotments are being run since the town council took over the running of allotments. The rent has doubled but the service we receive has drastically reduced.

Also it appears that no one actually wants to be on the council as I am led to believe that a large proportion of councillors were not elected as no one stood for election, resulting in councillors being co-opted on to the council. As the town councils duties are to the best of my knowledge only running the allotments , Xmas lights and making recommendations which are probably ignored, I think it would be best if the town council was dissolved and their duties taken back by TVBC.

8.9. Local resident

Andover Town Council appeared to come about as a result of a small number of people thinking they could promote their personal interests and make a marked change to Andover. It is significant that less than 14% of the residents eligible to vote, voted for a town council to be formed; very many people who did not vote, now say they didn't want a Town Council. Whilst the creation of a town council for Andover was democratic, it has to be questioned whether it therefore reflected the identities and interest of the community in the area.

At the last Town Council elections there were a number seats that were not contested and nine (out of nineteen) members of the Town Councillors now appear to have been co-opted – many of who appear to have joined the Town Council to promote their own personal interests that are of very little benefit to the general public.

The responsibilities of the Town Council are very limited. Formally, it only has responsibility for allotments. It informally does comment on planning applications and has sponsored the Christmas lights in the town with the money, indirectly, coming from local council tax payers. It also has a Community Engagement Committee.

The only self-generated income that the Town Council has is from allotment rents. On taking responsibility for allotments, the Town Council's first action was to double allotment rents and cease the 50% discount given to senior citizens. The rent is now one of the most expensive in the area and retired people hesitate to take on a plot because of the high charge. Whilst the unemployment rate in Andover is low, take-home pay is also low because of the nature of industry in the area. Thus, it can be questioned whether the allotment charges reflect the identity of the community in the area.

On taking over responsibility for the allotments there was a waiting list for plots but people were not being allocated vacant plots – eventually the waiting list disappeared, but not due to people taking on plots. For the past few years there have been vacant plots but the Town Council does not appear to have advertised them. Management of the allotments has had its failings with the focus being put on “nice to do things for the few” rather than what is required for the overall efficient running of allotments. There is no one with recognisable horticultural qualifications on the Allotments Committee. It therefore has to be questioned whether the Andover Town Council is effective in its only formal responsibility.

It is noted that most (but not all) of the Town Councillors now have their home contact details on the web site, rather than having to make contact via the Town Council’s office. Visitor access to the office is restricted to just three days in the week and only between 10am and 1pm. Telephone calls to the Town Council are frequently received by an answering machine with many people commenting that they do not receive phone backs after leaving a message. It is questionable whether access to the Town Council is convenient to the local community.

It is therefore proposed that the Andover Town Council is disbanded because it is an unnecessary extra layer of government whose tasks could more efficiently and economically be undertaken by Test Valley Borough Council, as they were prior to the formation of the Town Council.

9. Abbots Ann

9.1. Abbots Ann Parish Council

Abbots Ann Parish Council has requested that I write to you providing the consultation response approved through a vote in our recent council meeting of 23rd January 2018.

The Parish Council believes that there should be overwhelming reasons for any change. We do not foresee any value in making changes to the Abbots Ann Parish Boundary.

Following an informal approach by Andover Town Council with regards to Burghclere Down, we consulted with parishioners through a website, email and door-to-door letter drop exercise asking for comments. The response to this consultation was for no change with a strong preference to stay within the parish of Abbots Ann. The results are illustrated below:

ABBOTTS ANN COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - Final Results					
OPTION	BD Hardcopy	BD via FB	AA	TOTAL	%
A: Stay in Abbots Ann Parish Council	12	22	4	38	64%
B: Move to "Millway" Parish Council	3		9	12	20%
C: Move to Andover Town Council		6	3	9	15%
AA village residents who said it was up to Burghclere Down residents			3	3	
TOTAL	15	28	19	62	
BD Hardcopy : Responses delivered to BD Community Cen					
BD via FB: Responses to poll on "Burghclere Down Community Pages" FB Page					
AA responses via email or hard copy from shop					

Abbotts Ann Parish Council notes the recent borough ward boundary changes in which the previously unwarded parish will now have two wards. We do not believe that this on its own provides sufficient justification for a change. To use this could be interpreted as Test Valley Borough Council 'loading the dice' and pre-determining the outcome before the start of the review by establishing a reason during the borough governance review. If Abbotts Ann Parish does become warded, the proposal is for councillors to increase to nine.

For the avoidance of doubt, if Test Valley Borough Council was to propose a change to boundaries to move Burghclere Down from the parish of Abbotts Ann to Andover Town Council this would be against the express wishes of those residents who expressed an opinion.

9.2. Cllr Graham Stallard – Test Valley Borough Councillor (Anna ward)

This response recommends a change to the Parishes of Abbotts Ann and Andover Town – specifically, the transfer of the Burghclere Down community from Abbotts Ann to Andover Town.

TVBC's consultation advice is that responses should take account of two criteria, namely that any final parish arrangement should:-

- Reflect the identities and interests of communities
- Provide for effective and convenient local governance

TVBC further advises that responses should be supported by evidence and examples of how current arrangements do not meet these needs. This response addresses both criteria with evidence and examples.

Residents of Burghclere Down and Abbotts Ann village regularly ask "Why is Burghclere Down in Abbotts Ann Parish?" and this confusion has been there for nearly 20 years. The answer is historical – when Burghclere Down was a green field, before the construction of the A303 Andover bypass / dual carriageway, it was a part of Abbotts Ann. Residents then ask "When can this be changed to reflect reality?" The answer has always been – there will be a CGR prior to the 2019 elections to address it. So now is a one time opportunity to reflect that reality.

The reality is that Abbotts Ann village is a typical Test Valley village (characterised by thatch, brick and flint, and a VDS) with all its community facilities – playgrounds, open space, playing fields, shop, community hall) owned and maintained either by the Parish Council or by a similar community organisation. Burghclere Down is a 20 year old suburban development immediately attached to Andover, whose playgrounds, open space and community centre are all provided, maintained and refurbished in the same way as the rest of Andover Town. The two settlements are physically completely separated by the A303 dual carriageway, and there is no road or footpath directly connecting them. This physical separation is matched by the separation of the communities themselves, with little or no communication or integration.

The issues that arise for governance purposes are also completely different in the two communities. One example is the issue of rural exception affordable housing for the village. When a Housing Needs Survey was done in 2016, the Parish Council decided to exclude Burghclere Down residents from the survey to avoid any possibility that residents of Burghclere Down could claim local connection for their families should any affordable

houses be built in the village. Governance issues in Burghclere Down itself reflect much more those of other parts of Andover Town.

Turning to effective local governance, my personal experience of elections at the polling station in Burghclere Down demonstrates a lack of effectiveness; I attended the polling station three times on election day in May 2015, and I was occasionally approached outside by electors leaving, having cast their votes. They were confused about the parish voting paper; they had been asked to vote for seven names out of nine candidates, they did not know the candidate names, they did not know the roads in which the candidates lived; some had only just learned that they were part of Abbots Ann Parish, and they wanted an Andover Town vote. I asked what they had done. Many had simply not voted. Some, determined to do their democratic duty, had voted alphabetically for the first seven names on the list; one admitted to having done some kind of random name selection. Hardly effective local governance. The new warding arrangement in which Burghclere Down will have three of the seven names may help with this, but in reality in the last 20 years Burghclere Down has only just recently sent its first Parish Councillor to Abbots Ann. The lack of interest in Abbots Ann issues will probably result in the Burghclere Down representatives continuing to be residents of Abbots Ann Village.

This week a Burghclere Down resident pointed out to me that TVBC had already moved Burghclere Down into Andover. Not so, I said. Look at your own web site, said the resident. Which bit? The Borough Local Plan, arguably the most important document we produce! Inset Map 1 (Andover) clearly shows Burghclere Down in Andover, and Inset Map 7 (Abbots Ann) goes no further than the village of Abbots Ann. There is even a strategic local gap between them! Surely if TVBC's own planners can see this degree of physical separation, we should match it with some effective governance.

Finally, when TVBC itself recently proposed changes to its own warding arrangements, the separation (identities and interests) of Abbots Ann village and Burghclere Down was recognised by the proposal to move Burghclere Down from Anna ward to Millway ward. This was the right governance judgement and we must reflect it in the parish arrangements or leave a legacy of the confusion described above to the next generation.

In conclusion, the identities are different; the interests are different; local governance currently is neither convenient nor effective. I have presented above significant evidence and examples to support this conclusion, and I recommend strongly that the governance of Burghclere Down be transferred from Abbots Ann to Andover Town.

9.3. Abbots Ann resident

I would like to record my views on the options presented to Abbots Ann parish for the Community Governance Review.

In my experience [redacted], Burghclere Down residents have shown little interest in attending, or submitting correspondence to, the parish council of which they are supposed to be a part. I know that the council made many efforts to visit and engage Burghclere Down in the parish to which they belong, and there have been a few individuals at Burghclere Down who have likewise tried to interest their own community in the whole parish and its governance.

Mostly, there has been little response. I think Burghclere Down is a very different community from the village of Abbots Ann, being markedly suburban and probably largely commuter-style individualist (i.e. people keep to themselves and do not socialise much in a local centre such as a village pub). The Community Centre offers some centre of activity, but I would suggest it is used for specific activities, rather than just people gathering in an evening over a drink for the sake of meeting friends.

Abbots Ann village is rural and historic (see Domesday Book). Burghclere Down was, until recently, a field. It is separated from the ancient village by the A303, which reinforces geographically the separateness of character.

Burghclere Down is of a nature more akin to the outskirts of Andover. It may well not want to join a large Andover Town Council, and be possibly subsumed within it, but surely it would be better placed to join with Millway Ward, in a separate parish council where the interests and aims are similar. To say that a number of small parish councils will each have less power than the town council is to ignore the fact that those small parishes could link activity and campaigns with other small parishes in order to pursue their aims with the borough or county councils.

Further, to suggest that if Burghclere Down remains within the parish of Abbots Ann it should 'be ensured' (*sic*), as the flyer issued in the parish stated, three councillors on Abbots Ann's parish council which only numbers seven in total, seems disproportionate. Before Burghclere Down was created, Abbots Ann had seven councillors: now to reduce Abbots Ann to four, and introduce a guaranteed number representing Burghclere Down, is retrograde. If the interest shown in recent years is replicated in future elections, it is likely there would be at least a couple of vacant seats for Burghclere Down, and a surplus of candidates from Abbots Ann. It has been explained to me that in that scenario, the surplus candidates from Abbots Ann would be elected as representatives for Burghclere Down – but does not this then preclude Burghclere Down co-opting its own residents to fill their 'ensured' posts?

It is confusing, and if something is confusing, people generally lose interest very quickly.

The information about the proposals was sent by door-to-door flyer to residents of Burghclere Down, but residents of the village were only notified by the website and through a box of leaflets in the village shop – hardly universal coverage to permit a proper, whole-parish, response.

I understand there were approximately 60 responses received to the questionnaire sent out by the parish council. From a parish of over 2000 souls, this is hardly an overwhelming vote. To make major decisions about the future governance of this parish based on a 3% 'turn-out' seems heavy-handed, to say the least, especially as by no means all that 3% was in favour of remaining with Abbots Ann village.

I know information has been available on the website and elsewhere, but anyone involved with statistics and social attitudes in general will know that most people need the facts thrust in front of them before they can be motivated to make a choice, let alone an informed choice. I feel that a public meeting to discuss the issues might have been a better opportunity to disseminate this information and ensure people understood what was being proposed.

In the present circumstances, I would favour the option for Burghclere Down to join Millway Ward. The parish council, at its Extraordinary Meeting last Tuesday, could reasonably do no other than follow the feedback they received (preference to stay with Abbots Ann) whether

they felt it was in the best interests of the parish or not. A certain recent national Referendum comes to mind!

9.4. Abbotts Ann resident

From the perspective of an Abbotts Ann resident:

- It would be sensible to align the parish boundary with those of the proposed ward boundaries and therefore to transfer the part of the parish which currently includes Burghclere Down to Andover Town Council. This became particularly apparent when we began to consider building a small development of affordable housing for residents of Abbotts Ann village. This made it necessary to distinguish between Burghclere Down and the village proper. Burghclere Down is clearly geographically and socially part of Andover, separated from Abbotts Ann by the A303 and Little Park. It would not be appropriate for residents of Burghclere Down to be interested in or eligible for social housing in the Abbotts Ann part of the parish as they do not belong to the village.
- Though of less significance, it would make more sense for that part of the parish to the east of the A343 to be in the parish of Upper Clatford.
- I note that the ratio of parish councillors to residents is different from that in many parishes and recommend that consideration be given to increasing the number of parish councillors. There is the potential for a heavy workload in the parish which it is not always easy for the current councillors to undertake: additional councillors would enable the work to be expedited more swiftly and efficiently.

9.5. Abbotts Ann resident

Last Tuesday, 23rd January, Abbotts Ann parish council held a specific meeting to discuss its response to the Community Governance Review.

This response was to be compiled from replies to a survey flyer (copy enclosed to put this into your perspective), circulated individually to all the households in Burghclere Down. This was available to other parishioners only electronically, on the Abbotts Ann village website to those with internet access (I do not), and in a box in the village shop in Abbotts Ann. I do not believe this could lead to a balanced and representative analysis.

The meeting being one held in public [redacted] I attended. As far as I could hear, the results from Burghclere Down (15 paper copies and 28 electronic) outweighed those from Abbotts Ann village (16 paper copies and 5 electronic) - some 64 in total. Not a surprising proportion from my experience, and a personal letter-drop generally yields a better response to local issues. The population of Abbotts Ann is around 1100 electors, that of Burghclere Down around 850 electors.

Consequently, as an exercise in statistics, the result of this survey is not truly representative of the civil parish of Abbotts Ann - possibly a biased result, since there was no letter-drop in the village.

What is of great concern and particular anxiety to me is the apparent re-allocation of parish council seats. Abbotts Ann's population of some 1100 residents has been served by 7 councillors (once 6 councillors for a lower population, increased in the early 1970s by 1 councillor). It is now perverse that the original village's 7 representatives should be reduced to 4, whilst the new additional population of Burghclere Down (about 850), should appear to

be taking the other 3 seats away from the village. This would be wrong, and wholly undemocratic.

My earlier comments about circulation are not a criticism of the parish council, which has limited resources in cash, time and voluntary manpower. This issue of parish boundary however, a long-standing anomaly of administrative area, which needs resolution urgently, after previous postponements of boundary, reviews following the creation of the Burghclere Down 'housing estate'.

Since the Burnfield farmers' cornfield at Abbots Ann's northern tip was decapitated by the A303 in the 1960s and later became an urban housing estate, its new inhabitants have shown scant, if any, interest in their once-rural village neighbour. This, despite many pretty-well fruitless overtures from the parish council over years, and sterling efforts of [people on the parish council].

Abbots Ann parish council's provision of a footpath sign, a couple of dog bins and a defibrillator, hardly amount to a balanced equation against the village's effort to include and interest Burghclere Down residents in the village of Abbots Ann. Notwithstanding the differing social dynamics of an urban community and a rural one, and consideration of the council tax income, separation of Burghclere Down from Abbots Ann to Andover is to both parties' better interests, and, I think, overdue.

The boundary of the Civil Parish of Abbots Ann needs to be re-drawn at its northern edge along the south side of the A303, and it should keep its 7 parish councillors to properly represent the village.

I make these observations as one who has lived here for [a number of years], and [redacted] serviced on the parish council for [a number of years].

[Copy of survey provided below].

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

You may be aware that Test Valley Borough Council, (TVBC), is currently undertaking a Community Governance Review. The purpose of the Review will be to consider whether existing parish arrangements, including altering the boundaries of existing parishes, in any part of the borough of Test Valley should be changed in any way.

BACKGROUND TO THIS COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

During 2017 the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, (LGBCE), undertook an electoral review of TVBC. One of their final proposals was that Burghclere Down be moved into the Andover Millway" TVBC Ward. If approved by Parliament this will take force from the next scheduled TVBC elections in 2019. As things stand, from that point Abbots Ann Parish would be split into two Parish Wards: Abbots Ann (with 4 parish councillors), and Burghclere Down (with 3 parish councillors).

Abbots Ann is not the only parish to be potentially split into wards - in total there are 8 parish councils in this situation within Test Valley. A community governance review provides an opportunity to consider whether changes should now be made to parish arrangements. Actually it is good practice to review community governance arrangements every 10-15 years. The last review took place in 2007, and TVBC now have a statutory duty to carry out a borough wide review.

CONSULTATION

The first stage of this review is now taking place. This is in the form of a public consultation where VBC is asking for proposals on changes to existing parish arrangements. This consultation will run until 29 January 2018.

ABBOTTS ANN PARISH COUNCIL. (AAPC). POSITION

On the 7th December AAPC met with Cllr Gates, a member of Andover Town Council, ATC, to consider what the possible options for Burghclere Down are. We felt there were three possibilities:

- A) Burghclere Down,(BD), remains as part of AAPC. BD would be ensured 3 councillors within AAPC, but the geographical separation of the BD estate from Abbots Ann village would remain.
- B) ATC is broken up and replaced with smaller parishes that mirror the TVBC wards. These new parish councils would be closer to the electorate enabling them to focus on parish issues in their individual areas. However Andover would not have a central voice. BD would move into a new parish covering the exiting TVBC "Millway" Ward.
- C) BD moves into a new enlarged ATC. This would be very large with over 38,000 electors. There would be no certainty that any councillors would be from BD.

We would be interested to know what your views on this matter are. Would you please complete the form below? Your completed forms can either be posted into the letter box at Burghclere Down Community Centre or delivered to Abbots Ann Village Shop. AAPC will hold a meeting at Burghclere Down Community Centre on Tuesday, 23rd January at 7pm to consider your responses and finalise our submission to this consultation exercise. This is NOT a formal vote but it does give you an opportunity to express your views on what governance arrangements you would like to see.

10. Charlton

One response was received in relation to Charlton parish after the close of the consultation period.

11. Penton Mewsey

11.1. Penton Mewsey Parish Council

Penton Mewsey Parish Council asks Test Valley Borough Council to review Penton Mewsey's boundary with Penton Grafton Parish Council with a view to moving it to the west as indicated on the attached plan marked 'P' to include that part of Penton Grafton Parish Council immediately adjoining Penton Mewsey.

The Pentons as they are known comprise the village of Penton Mewsey and the built part of Penton Grafton immediately to the east. That they are physically indistinguishable is supported by a number of documents – The joint Village Design Statement, the Pentons Conservation Area and Map 34 to the Local Plan which shows the Pentons as one settlement.

The Pentons also share the following facilities

- Church
- Public House
- Village Hall
- Recreation Ground with Cricket Club, Tennis Club and children's play area
- A number of societies eg the Penton Players and the Good Companions.
- There is interest in reopening the Village Shop.

It is the view of Penton Mewsey Parish Council that all these factors demonstrate a shared community identity and interest between the two areas affected by this request. Residents and Penton Grafton Parish Council have been advised of the possibility of the change.

Also attached to this request is a detailed list of factors which was originally prepared in 2007 which has been reviewed and where applicable updated and which are still relevant to this proposal and a plan showing the boundary.

DETAILED LIST

Realignment of the Parish Boundary between Penton Mewsey Civil Parish (PMCP) and Penton Grafton Civil Parish (PGCP) would deal with the following points, listed from north to south, see Attachment.

- i. Staddlestone Farm/Penton Grainstore & adjacent cottages.
These buildings lie in PGCP but access to the grain store is via a dedicated private road and is also via Chalkcroft Lane, Penton Mewsey. The cottages immediately front Chalkcroft Lane and access is through Penton Mewsey.
Planning proposals affect only the Penton Mewsey community but applications are sent to both councils which involves additional cost by both PCs & TVBC (administration & liaison time, + duplication expenses).
- ii. Blacksmiths Lane - Improvements
The parish boundary crosses this much-used bridle path (75% PGCP, 25% PMCP). Improvements to this Right-of-Way (RoW) were on the PMPC agenda for a number of years but PGPC, justifiably, had priorities in Weyhill. Resurfacing for the whole lane was carried out in 2012, the cost of which was by Penton Mewsey PC
- iii. Blacksmiths Lane - Adjacent line of Ash trees (all with TPO's against them).
The line of trees along Blacksmiths Lane lie in PGCP and are a concern to nearby householders in both parishes due to falling branches and overhang but are not on PGPC's agenda.
- iv. Beech House
This relatively new building lies fully within the boundary PGCP but access is only via PMPC owned land and Trinity Rise, Penton Mewsey. Again, applications were sent to both PCs which involved additional cost by both PCs & TVBC (administration & liaison time, + duplication expenses).
- v. Meadow adjacent Holy Trinity Church Penton Mewsey
This privately-owned land, (sometimes known as The Grove, Church Meadow or Brokeslade's Meadow) is often used for grazing sheep and has two Public Footpaths (RoWs), four kissing gates and a convoluted parish boundary running through which is crossed twice on one footpath. This complexity created additional administration involving both PCs & HCC during the Foot & Mouth RoW closures in 2001. Maintenance for gates falls to PMPC to address.
- vi. Public Footpath from Penton Lane to Meadow (5 above)
In 2002 PMPC arranged for HCC RoW office to renew all fingerposts in PMCP and invited PGPC to be included. This offer was declined and the fingerpost for this RoW within PG is now in a very poor condition. PMPC has now arranged for the replacement

of this via the Lengthsman scheme. The footpath (Grafton Place south) and kissing gate could also be candidates for maintenance &/or repair.

vii. Holy Trinity Church, Penton Mewsey

The churchyard was extended northwards some time ago into PGCP. The church serves residents of both Penton Mewsey and Penton Grafton equally and PMPC makes annual donations towards upkeep of this churchyard, whereas PGPC, justifiably, contributes to Weyhill Church.

viii. Penton Recreational Centre: Cricket Field, Pavilion, Tennis Courts & Playground

On old maps this land is shown as being in PGCP but now the parish boundary runs along the western edge of the tennis courts and playground. Penton Village Trust was established in 1949 to provide recreational facilities (incl. Village Hall) to be enjoyed by the whole community. PMPC has a budget for, and makes annual donations to the PRC for recreation field maintenance amounting to a third of the annual cost. PGPC also contribute a third

ix. Drainage

All the drains and watercourses in PMCP have been reviewed and improved over the last years by close liaison between PMPC, HCC Highways & riparian owners. The parish boundary lies at the western end of Penton Pond; thus, the entry lies in PGCP. It would avoid the need to liaise with PGPC on this western part of the watercourse up to and beyond Short Lane (Grafton) if the boundary lay west of Short Lane. This road is prone to flooding due to lack of remedial drainage work under it - PGPC has had, justifiably, drainage-work priorities elsewhere.

x. Traffic Foxcotte lane – Weyhill Bottom Road

A traffic-calming scheme was installed in 2005. Both parishes were involved creating additional cost by both PCs including extra cost and time by HCC in administration, duplication, etc. In 2013 a feasibility study was requested by PMPC to HCC regarding further traffic schemes. One pilot scheme involved chicanes that did not prove successful. The latter scheme was passed by both Hampshire Police and HCC/TVBC and involved the reduction of speed to 30mph crossing both boundaries. This has proved successful and now PMPC has instigated a Speed Watch campaign by installing a Speed Indicator Device, all funding for which was sought by PMPC. The 2 properties furthest from the village gate lie within PG Parish.

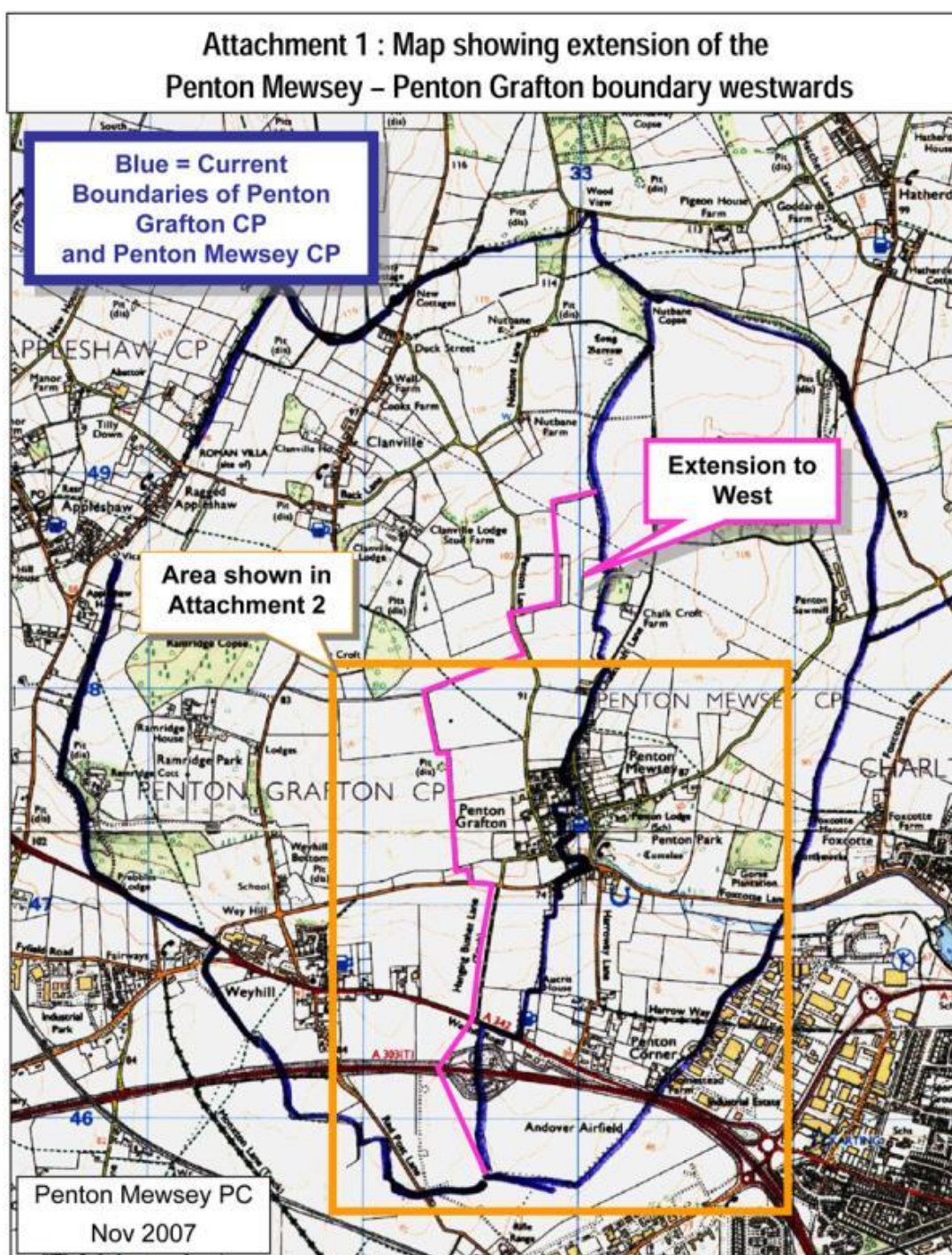
xi. Hanging Bushes lane

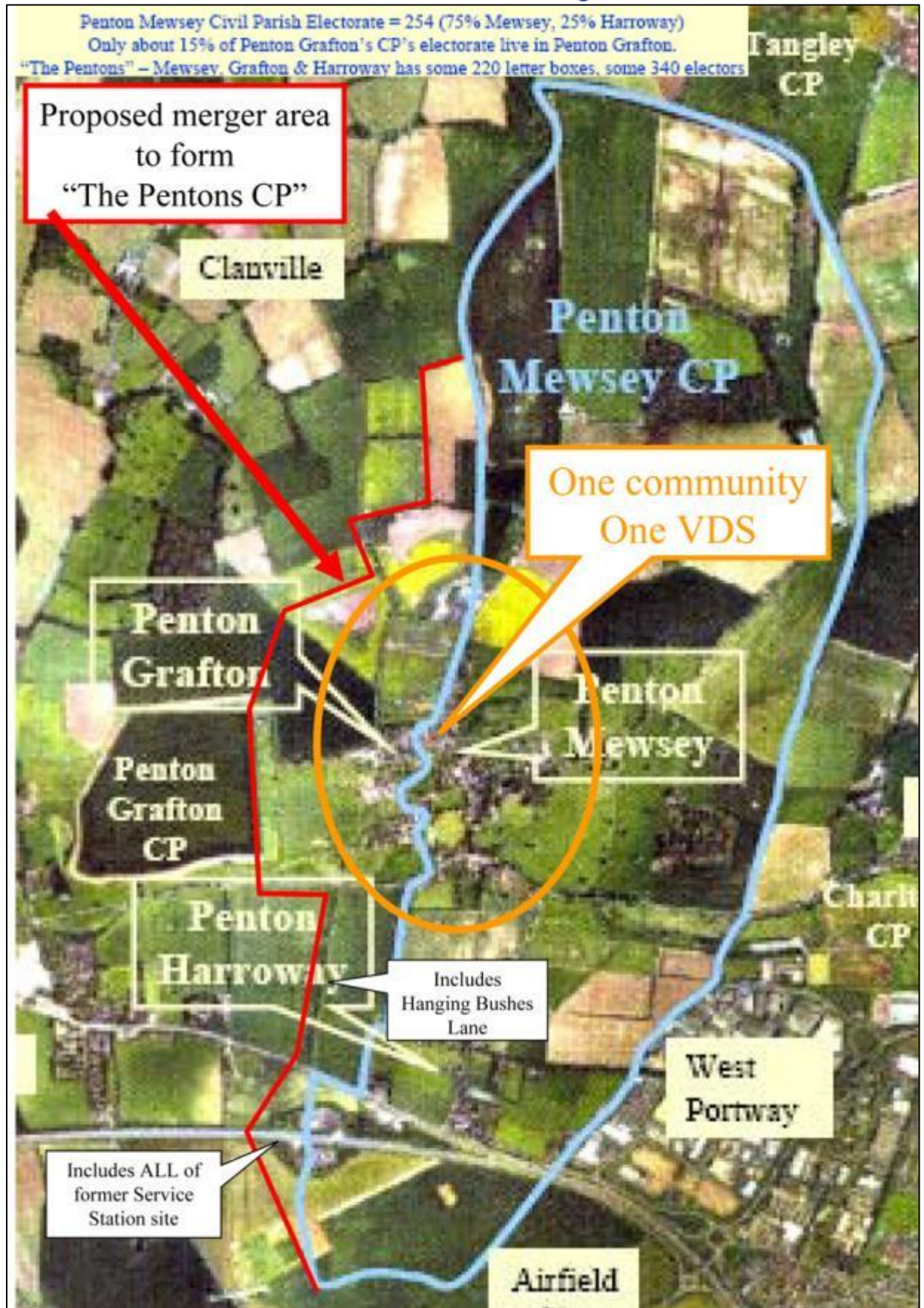
This bridleway (RoW) connects Weyhill Bottom Road (opposite Short Lane, Penton Grafton) with Weyhill Road (A342). It is used almost exclusively by the Pentons community for safe walking to Weyhill. This RoW is maintained by TVBC however PGPC do not list as a priority annual cut, therefore maintenance is conducted voluntarily by a Penton Mewsey resident. PMPC have previously identified this as an issue and sought to highlight the priority of cutting to no avail. This RoW will be included within the Lengthsman scheme at Penton Mewsey's request for attention. Signs about litter and dog fouling have been erected by PMPC (albeit in PGCP). It would make sense if the parish boundary ran just west of Hanging Bushes Lane. In addition, this RoW as it lies next to P Mewsey and is therefore used by mostly PM residents, is not a priority for PGPC.

xii. Penton Village Hall

This facility is used by the whole community and both PMPC and PGPC have, in the past, made donations for equipment and maintenance. In the last few years only, PMPC has contributed to Penton Village Hall as PGPC has, justifiably, had priorities elsewhere (Weyhill Village Hall etc). Note: The PMCP election voting station is at Penton Village Hall whereas Penton Grafton electors, some of whom live almost opposite, have to travel to Weyhill Village Hall.

- xiii. A303 Weyhill Service Station Site
The parish boundary runs across the A303 straight through the former Texaco Service Station. TVBC had to send planning applications to PMPC and PGPC, creating additional cost by both PCs & TVBC (administration & liaison time, + duplication expenses). If the boundary were west of the site then such administration would be avoided and savings made.
- xiv. The Pentons Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)
This involves and benefits the whole community and both PCs have made a financial contribution towards its running. If the boundary were moved west the administration involved by both PCs in receiving contributions from PGPC would be eliminated, also making savings.





12. Penton Grafton

12.1. Penton Grafton Parish Council

We wish to enter the following reply to our neighbouring Parish Council's submission and would answer their points as follows:

Shared facilities:

Church: We would question how well used Penton Mewsey church is by Penton Grafton residents specifically as congregations everywhere are falling and no village or parish is one denominational. Our combined benefices share a vicar and services are split between many village churches.

Public house: If this refers to the White Hart, it has repeatedly failed financially and has spent as much time closed down as open for business in the last 20 years. If it refers to the Bell, it is well outside the "village" part of Penton Mewsey and even further from Penton Grafton "village".

Village Hall: Penton Grafton parishioners have better facilities at Weyhill which requires no Parish subsidy.

Recreation ground etc.: Contributions to upkeep are made by Penton Grafton Parish Council to cover the small amount of use by Penton Grafton "village" residents. Penton Grafton parish residents as a whole have never been made welcome.

Societies: We have our own societies and clubs including a Seniors club and gardening club to which all are welcome, regardless of their address.

Village shop: How do Penton Mewsey plan to reopen this as it depends on the White Hart pub for premises and this is again closed down?

Detailed list referring to Penton Mewsey's numbered points:

- i. Many village properties are accessed via neighbouring parishes and adjoining parishes need to be aware of planning issues on adjacent land so this is a necessary system.
- ii. Penton Mewsey Parish Council never asked us to carry out resurfacing of this bridleway and actually had no request or permission from us to carry out this work.
- iii. TPOs are not "against" trees but are there to protect them. The responsibility for maintenance rests with the owner of the land in which they are rooted. Where a danger is reported to us we act.
- iv. Refer back to 1 above as this is the same point re crossing boundaries to access properties.
- v. We have never been asked to contribute to maintenance of the footpaths through this meadow and do we really need to pre-plan for the next foot & mouth outbreak, which probably won't affect us? Also anything done under the current lengthsman scheme has been contributed to by Penton Grafton Parish as part of our allocation was used by Penton Mewsey.

- vi. [See v.]
- vii. Yes, Penton Grafton Parish Council do contribute to Weyhill church rather than Penton Mewsey church as it is the only church within our boundary. Penton Grafton villagers sometimes attend Penton Mewsey services and conversely Penton Mewsey villagers attend Weyhill. This is due to the Church of England's practice of having one vicar for a large number of parishes who has to share his or her time around.
- viii. We contribute a disproportionately high percentage of maintenance costs when looked at on a per capita parishioner basis. Previously, when functions have been organised with a view to making them "joint", Penton Mewsey Parish Council have been adamant that it is to include only Penton Grafton village residents not those of Penton Grafton parish. Their unwelcoming, insular stance adequately conveys their feeling of superiority over their neighbours and reveals the true motive behind this proposal which we believe is designed to further isolate them from their neighbours. Conversely we believe in community cohesion and would welcome closer ties with like minded communities.
- ix. Each parish bears responsibility for not allowing its water courses to adversely affect neighbouring properties. The last time we had a flooding issue at Weyhill Bottom it was at least aggravated, if not caused by Penton Mewsey's lack of maintenance under the bridge to the east of Penton Pond which restricted the onward flow of water.
- x. The attempted traffic calming scheme through Penton Mewsey was a complete failure, due to poor design despite Penton Grafton co-operation in allowing one end of it to be sited within our boundary. The speed limit is partially successful and we have long campaigned for the same through our parish to no avail.
- xi. This point is a complete fabrication. This bridleway is fully within our boundary and maintained by us. Penton Mewsey cannot include this in the lengthsman scheme next year as the scheme is being cut from HCCs budget and will not exist. Penton Mewsey sought no permission to erect signs on our property which would have been the polite course of action and would also have saved them money as we would have accepted responsibility. The path is not used "almost exclusively by their parishioners" but used by many of our parishioners and by the wider community.
- xii. We do not have "priorities elsewhere" but do not feel obliged to subsidise Penton Mewsey village hall. We have our own hall which is so successful and heavily booked that it is totally self funding. If you make a success of your village hall it needs no subsidy.
- xiii. We agree that dividing this site is ludicrous. However, as it is well known as Weyhill Services it should fall within the parish which includes Weyhill. It has no relevance to Penton Mewsey.
- xiv. What is wrong with a shared Neighbourhood Watch scheme? This aids the flow of information and to separate it makes no sense. This is another example of Penton Mewsey's isolationism.

Penton Grafton Parish Council's counter proposal:

We at Penton Grafton Parish Council are unanimously against the proposal for Penton Mewsey Parish Council to absorb Penton Grafton Village into their parish boundary thereby robbing us of our historical identity. We are not against change per se, as is demonstrated by our recent agreement with Appleshaw Parish Council to realign our common boundary. We have, however, communicated our opposition to this proposal to both the chair and clerk at Penton Mewsey who have chosen to ignore us and try to force this change through.

Penton Mewsey is the smaller parish of the two, both in area and population. Penton Grafton has approximately 80% more land area and 130% more parishioners (the latter still increasing due to development), whilst maintaining a lower precept and therefore a lower council tax.

Penton Mewsey's village hall is subsidised from public funds whereas ours is totally self funding.

Neither of our parishes wishes to be joined with Charlton ward under the proposed ward boundary changes. Both wish to remain in Penton Bellinger ward (there is a clue in the very name) as this more accurately reflects our rural natures and needs. Charlton is already indistinguishable from Andover in one direction and in the process of being linked in another.

Penton Mewsey claims that they want to reopen their village shop and we wish them luck but where it will be is a mystery as it has previously been housed at the now closed village pub. Penton Grafton parish has a thriving shop and pub which are separate businesses rather than being interdependent.

Should Penton Grafton parish lose the village of Penton Grafton this would obviously necessitate a name change. This creates a problem with our successful Penton Grafton Cottage Charity which owns 9 low rental properties across the local area and would need Charity Commission consent to change its name and trustees. We also own the Fairground Craft Centre and the legal costs in name changes and charity registrations would far outweigh any financial gain which Penton Mewsey believe could be achieved.

A more logical approach would be for Penton Grafton parish to absorb Penton Mewsey parish, creating a Penton, Weyhill and Clanville parish, needing only one Parish Council, although this would probably need to be larger than either current individual one. There could even be a case for only needing one community hall, removing the need for public subsidy and potentially freeing a site for future development and producing income.

13. Appleshaw

13.1. Appleshaw Parish Council

INTRODUCTION

Appleshaw Parish Council welcomes the opportunity to rectify an anomaly in its boundary with Penton Grafton in Ragged Appleshaw. The parish council was represented at a meeting on 23rd November 2017 when the Terms of Reference for this Review were introduced and an indication given of the criteria which would be taken into account by the Review panel. We meet these criteria because:

- i. Penton Grafton (PG) Parish Council is aware of our submission and has no objection to it.

- ii. The 9 affected properties are within the Appleshaw settlement area for planning purposes and thus reflect the village's identity and interests.
- iii. The solution in this Submission is effective and convenient for this small community.
- iv. The Borough's new Ward arrangements, if approved, would put Penton Grafton and Appleshaw in different TVBC Wards which would **not** reflect the identities and interests of the community in Appleshaw.

DETAIL

The affected properties are on PG's western boundary with Appleshaw as under and are clearly part of the Appleshaw community: the occupants live in Appleshaw and they engage in village life, so reflecting Appleshaw's identity and interests. Some properties are wholly within PG parish and some have a house in one and a garden in the other or vice versa. We consider our submission to be an effective solution to this historical anomaly which dates from the days when Ragged Appleshaw was called 'Back Street' and contained only one or two dwellings on the west side of the road. We would point you to the new Local Plan [Inset Map for Appleshaw \(No. 12\)](#) which recognises that the 9 dwellings are very much part of Appleshaw village.

- v. Please refer to the attached parish plan at Annex A. We would like to alter the parish boundary to follow the hedge line marked blue on the plan. The 9 affected properties are:
 - a. **1 - 6 The Old Courtyard.** all properties are wholly in PG parish.
 - b. **Petann:** (the dwelling is in PG parish but some of the garden and the drive are in Appleshaw)
 - c. **Wood View:** wholly in PG parish – new Harrow Farm development – currently unoccupied
 - d. **Harrow Farmhouse:** wholly in PG parish – new Harrow Farm development – currently unoccupied

In addition, the Trevelyan dwelling is in Appleshaw but its back garden is in PG parish.

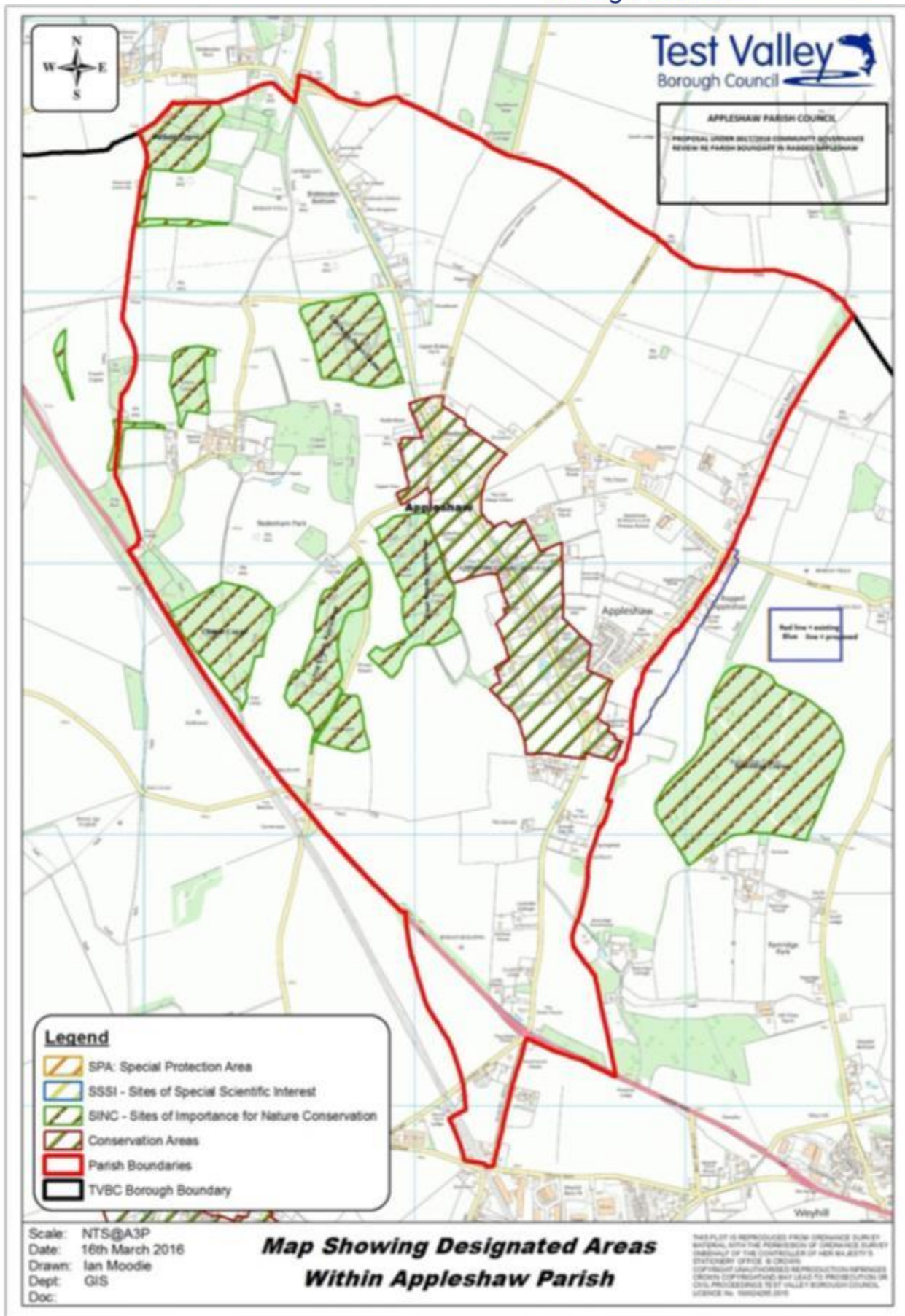
A new line has been taken from Appleshaw House to the hedge line at Harrow Farm to avoid too many doglegs in the boundary; however, this part of the proposal is negotiable.

- vi. Below is an extract from the TVBC spreadsheet which shows that Appleshaw is projected to lose 13 electors by 2022. Having had no input for these figures, the parish council does not know what the calculation is based on, but we believe that 13 should therefore be taken off the number of electors which this proposal will add to the total and we trust that the slight increase rather than the projected decrease will be looked on favourably because it reflects the identity and interests of the community. The proposal would take the number of households in the parish from 215 to 224.

From 'Information on Current Parish Arrangements':

Parish	Style	No. of cllrs	2017 electors (as of 31/10/17 register)	2022 electors	Change		2017 councillor:elector ratio
					Increase/decrease	% change	
Appleshaw	Parish council	8	471	458	-13	-2.8%	1:59

- vii. New Ward arrangements:
- Please refer to the TVBC document [Current Parish Boundaries and Proposed New Wards](#) .If approved, Penton Grafton and Appleshaw Parish Councils are to be in different TVBC Wards which would compound the anomaly for the community, as the few electors involved would vote for PG Parish councillors and TV Borough councillors who do not look after the rest of the village. Under existing arrangements, these electors have to travel out of the village to vote in Borough and Parish elections rather than walking a few yards to the polling station in Appleshaw Village Hall.
 - We understand that a plan was agreed at a TVBC Council meeting in May 2017 to retain the 9 properties in Ward 19 (Penton) when the new Ward arrangements are agreed. A map was subsequently produced to confirm this. We would ask for an explanation if this agreement has been overturned.



13.2. Penton Grafton Parish Council

Penton Grafton Parish Council have been in discussion with Appleshaw Parish Council and fully support their submission to change the boundary between Penton Grafton and Appleshaw for the 9 affected properties:

- a. **1 - 6 The Old Courtyard.** all properties are wholly in PG parish.
- b. **Petann:** (the dwelling is in PG parish but some of the garden and the drive are in Appleshaw)
- c. **Wood View:** wholly in PG parish – new Harrow Farm development – currently unoccupied
- d. **Harrow Farmhouse:** wholly in PG parish – new Harrow Farm development – currently unoccupied

In addition, the Trevelyan dwelling is in Appleshaw but its back garden is in PG parish.

14. Fyfield

No consultation responses have been received in relation to Fyfield parish.

15. Kimpton

No consultation responses have been received in relation to Kimpton parish.

16. Shipton Bellinger

No consultation responses have been received in relation to Shipton Bellinger parish.

17. Thruxton

No consultation responses have been received in relation to Thruxton parish.

18. Amport

18.1. Quarley Parish Council

See item 19.1.

19. Quarley

19.1. Quarley Parish Council

On behalf of Quarley Parish Council I attach our submission recommending Parish boundary adjustments at three points on our current Parish boundary.

We have approached the compilation of our submission in a way that complies with the four principles set out in TVBCs' Terms of Reference i.e. that the proposals reflect community interests and identities and that they act to promote effective and convenient governance.

We will retain all correspondence, returned questionnaires and other relevant material on which our submission is based. We will be happy to make this material available to TVBC if it helps the decision making process.

We look forward to hearing further.

i. Criteria

TVBC has set out the criteria in formulating plans to adjust parish boundaries. These are

A. Identity and Interest- i.e. in a given area, who do the residents within the area identify with and in which parish community are they most interested.

B. effective and convenient i.e. does the proposed change assist effective and convenient ministration of the subject parish.

ii. Description of sites in contention

There are three areas where Quarley Parish Boundary (QPB) can be regarded as less than ideal.

- (a) One is the boundary which crosses the road leading to Grateley railway station and then passes rough two dwellings before proceeding through fields. The residents know of this anomaly. They live closer to the centre of Grateley than Quarley and consider themselves Grateley parish residents. We should propose that a minor adjustment be made to pass the grounds on which these two dwellings stand into Grateley Parish.
- (b) The second is the area between the back road to Cholderton and the A303 road, commencing with Lains Farm, whose boundary is approximately 4 minutes walk from Quarley Churchyard gate, and village nodal point.
- (c) The third is the area opposite Lains Farm containing workshops, firing range and even the sola panel farm.

Notwithstanding the closeness of areas (b) and (c) to the centre of Quarley, they currently lie within he parish of Amport.

iii. Quarley Conservation area

Part of Quarley's Statutory Conservation Area lies within the parish of Amport. The area involved contains Lains farm and the two adjoining dwellings to the west. Currently any adjustments to this would involve consultation with two parishes who might not agree to proposed amendments.

iv. Consultation.

As a first step the views of those living in all three areas or who own areas within site (c) have been sought. At the time of writing this several replies have been received from site (b) residents, ranging from concern about a change, through indifference to either option to fervent support for this area becoming part of Quarley Parish. Fliers supporting a move to Quarley Parish currently amount to 8 with one flier expressing indifference to either option. In addition, there were two verbal expressions of apprehension. The two site (a) owners supported a move to Grateley. Responses may arrive after the submission to TVBC.

We have assumed that TVBC has a record of the houses in this area.

Reasons for support for the move include the following

- a. The unfairness in the shareout of planning gain money from the solar panel farm. Notwithstanding its closeness to Quarley, this village received £15000 less from the developers than distant Amport. Residents referred to the use of Quarley's approach road to provide access to this area.
- b. The closer proximity to Quarley as compared with Amport, the current parish for the area.
- c. The irritation in residents having to drive to Amport to vote.
- d. The driving distance from the far end of the subject area to Amport village (over 4 miles).
- e. The administrative disadvantages in having Quarley's Conservation area within two parishes.
- f. Concern about the main slip road and approach road to Quarley village being occasionally plagued with a litter problem. If the road were in Quarley Parish, the problem would be given greater attention.

As replies are received there may be more reasons to consider. We have retained all returned fliers, Emails and other messages and are happy to show these to TVBC if required to do so.

v. Residents' suggestions

One resident has raised the possibility of the inclusion of the Solar Panel farm area into Quarley Parish. This area is closer to Quarley village than Amport and is accessed using the main highway from the A303. This suggestion was made between one resident of area (b) to another and further suggestions from this source may appear as part of this project.

vi. Fairness

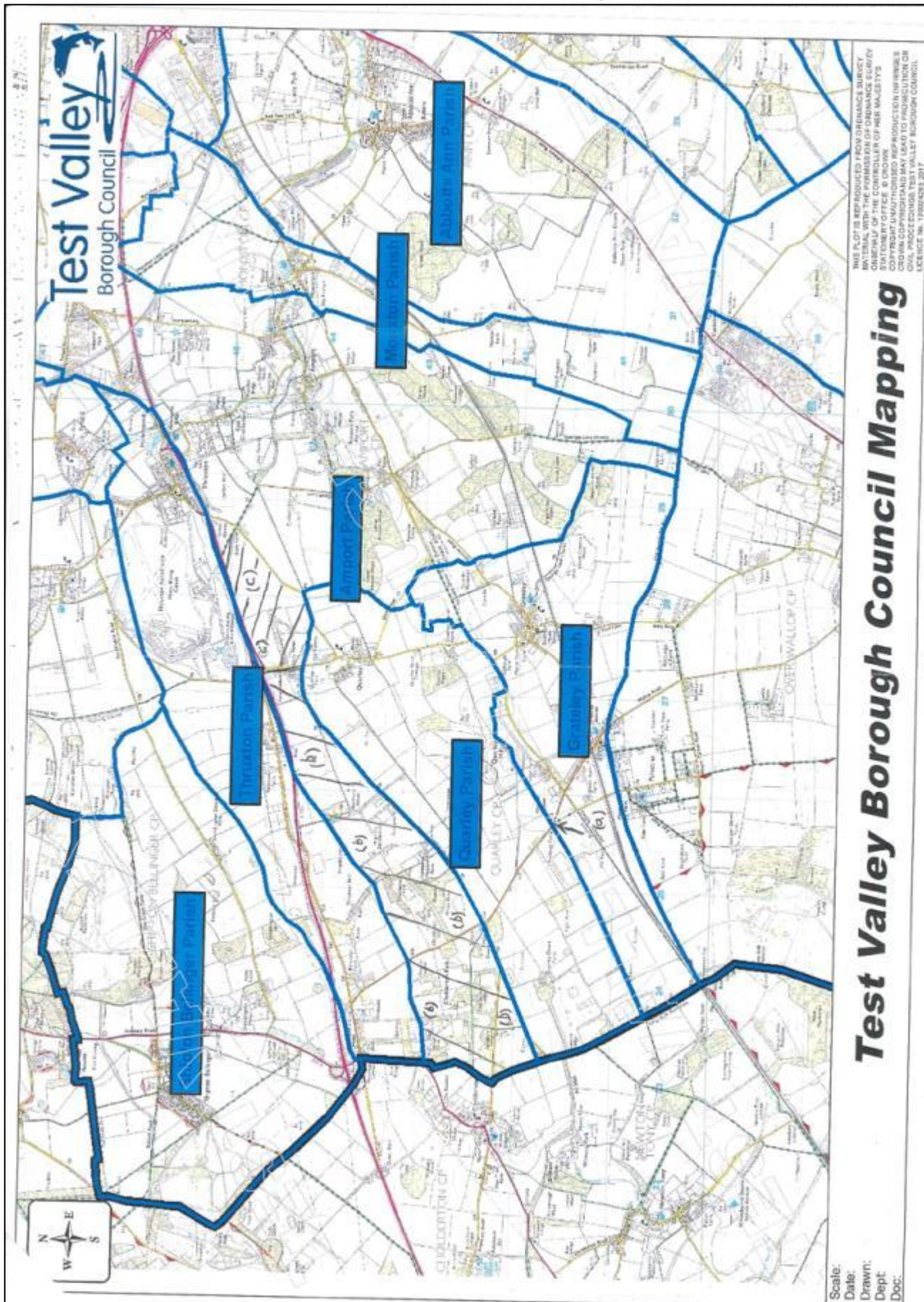
In the interests of fairness and to ask opinions without pressure, a flier was issued in which residents were asked to back one of three options. These were (a) transfer to Quarley Parish, (b) leave current parish boundary untouched, and (c) content with either option. There may be cases where recipients of the flier do not want to respond. There is no remedy for this.

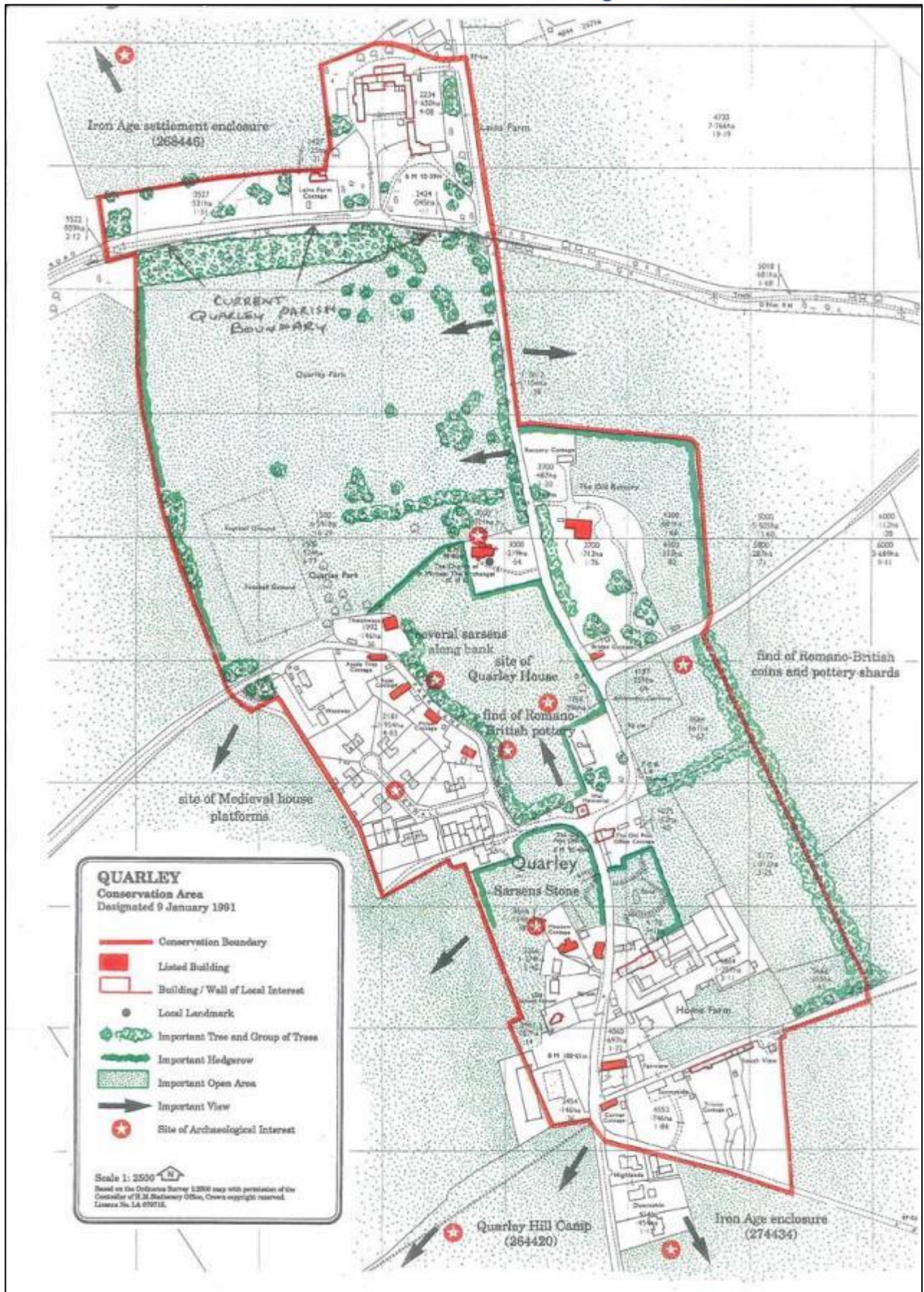
This exercise was instigated by TVBC at a difficult time of the year in which Christmas, bad weather and limited daylight as well as rural areas with access problems could justify the claim that the timing of the exercise was not ideal. One resident was contacted while on holiday in New Zealand.

At the time of writing this we have significantly more expressions of support from residents for option (a) above than against.

vii. Formal request

We formally request that the areas described as (a) be transferred to Grateley Parish and areas described as (b) and (c) be transferred to Quarley Parish.





20. Grateley

20.1. Quarley Parish Council

See item 19.1.

21. Monxton

No consultation responses have been received in relation to Monxton parish.

22. Upper Clatford

22.1. Andover Town Council

See item 8.1.

22.2. Andover resident

See item 8.3.

23. Goodworth Clatford

23.1. Andover Town Council

See item 8.1.

24. Wherwell

No consultation responses have been received in relation to Wherwell parish.

25. Longparish

25.1. Barton Stacey Parish Council

See item 27.1.

26. Bullington

No consultation responses have been received in relation to Bullington parish.

27. Barton Stacey

27.1. Barton Stacey Parish Council

The Parish Council established a working party to consider the Terms of Reference Document in connection with the Parish. The Chairman contacted the 4 neighbouring parishes by email and had responses from 2 of them.

The Parish email system which now has over 180 subscribers and the Parish council website were used to encourage comments from residents and groups such as the local history group, were approached.

After these consultations Barton Stacey Parish Council believe that there is only issue which is a boundary change in connection with one property:-

Gavelacre, Longparish Road, South Harewood, Andover, SP11 7AL straddles the Longparish/Barton Stacey parish boundary. Only a small section of the garden is within Barton Stacey with most of the garden and house being in Longparish. It is felt that the boundary should be moved to permit the whole garden to be in Longparish but following the existing boundary elsewhere.

28. Chilbolton

No consultation responses have been received in relation to Chilbolton parish.

29. Leckford

No consultation responses have been received in relation to Leckford parish.

30. Longstock

30.1. Longstock Parish Council

At the TVAPTC meeting on 23rd November 2017, at which Longstock Parish Council was represented, the CGR was the main item on the agenda. In answer to questions it was made clear (and I quote from the minutes of the meeting) that “the CGR was primarily a matter for parishes with perceived anomalies or territorial aspirations, and secondly changes should be reached through consultation with neighbouring parishes.”

It is in that spirit that this Parish Council now wants to make its position clear in relation to any suggestions that the boundary between Longstock and Stockbridge parishes should be changed in any way. The possibility of such a change has been raised by a question posed by a Stockbridge resident and aimed at residents in the Stockbridge area in the pre-Christmas edition of the local church magazine that stated:

“Stockbridge is seen by TVBC as a Key Service Area and, as such, an area which potentially could sustain further development. Residents of some parts of ‘Stockbridge’ are currently represented by Longstock and Houghton parish councils, but look and feel like Stockbridge residents. Is the status quo sensible? What do you think?”

In some ways Longstock is an anomaly. The southern part, consisting of the houses at Windover crossroads, Houghton Road, Salisbury Hill and Roman Road, lies within the so-called Settlement Boundary of Stockbridge, but is firmly within the civil parish of Longstock. The middle of the river is the boundary, and has been since the 19th century. It is accepted that many residents in ‘Longstock South’ might feel themselves more attuned to Stockbridge through proximity to shops, schools and other services. But a comprehensive survey of those residents by letter and word of mouth in the last month makes it abundantly clear that they prefer to remain in Longstock by more than a 95% majority. The main reasons cited are that Longstock Parish Council is proactive and alert to their needs and aspirations, so they really do not want to change.

Longstock has a character quite distinct from Stockbridge and, while we depend on Stockbridge as our local trading hub, we have no desire to be incorporated in their parish. Longstock Parish Council would not wish to see any changes to the boundaries with our neighbours.

30.2. Chairman of Longstock Parish Council

I am writing to you not only as Chairman of Longstock Parish Council but also a long-term resident of the village.

I have written to every resident of Longstock alerting them to possible 'Land Grab' by Stockbridge. I have also door stepped every resident that has potentially been earmarked for absorption into Stockbridge, some 61 houses. I have had a 99% response rate of wishing to remain within the Parish of Longstock.

The river is our natural boundary and in my view should remain so. Just to 'tidy up' parishes for the sake of it seems totally unnecessary and a complete waste of time and resources.

I find the Parish Council of Stockbridge to be lethargic, to put it mildly. They rarely have actual site meetings, seem disinterested in the businesses in the town and are totally in denial about parking issues, God forbid they take more houses under their auspices.

Personally I wish the status quo to remain as is.

As Chairman of the PC I represent my fellow councillors who are also unanimous in this decision.

30.3. Longstock resident

I am concerned that much damage could be done if you were to change some boundaries between civil parishes, in particular our own in Longstock. We have a very proactive Parish Council in Longstock which we are very happy with. They serve us well meeting and exceeding all our expectations at all times. It would be such a pity if you were to change existing arrangements.

Please please keep things as they are.

30.4. Longstock resident

I am of the understanding that the Test Valley Borough Council is conducting a Community Governance Review which is looking at boundaries between parishes.

I would like to air my view that I would like the parish boundary between Stockbridge and Longstock to be maintained as it is at the present time.

30.5. Longstock resident

As long term residents of Roman Road we have been served very well indeed by Longstock parish council and feel very strongly that we wish to stay within there civil parish.

The boundaries have always been divided by the river test and we would very much like that to remain.

30.6. Longstock resident

Hi please leave the Stockbridge and Longstock boundaries alone!
I am in my 75th year and I have never heard such rubbish!
A very angry Longstock resident

30.7. Longstock resident

I should like to register my concern about building propositions for Longstock. I am a resident of Longstock [on Houghton Road] on the west side of the river and my husband and I would like everything to stay the same. We live [on] Houghton Road and there is definitely already a serious traffic problem outside our house with dangerous parking due to the school run and any houses built further up our road would be disastrous! Please leave everything as it is!!

30.8. Longstock residents

We are the owner residents of [redacted] and wish to comment on the possibility of TVBC's Community Governance Review proposing that Longstock Parish be subsumed within the neighbouring Stockbridge Parish.

We wish to support maintenance of status quo.

Longstock, both in its village centre and along the Longstock/Houghton Roads, has built around itself a thriving social, cultural and self-administering identity, strongly independent and distinct from the busy, touristic and commercial hub that is Stockbridge. We value Stockbridge for its own attractive character, facilities and larger diverse community but believe that Longstock's intimacy and dedicated focus would be lost if the PC's merged. We believe the existing Longstock PC is best able to represent our particular interests in such matters as planning, street lighting, road maintenance and flooding which differ on 'our' side of the river from the more intensely-developed Stockbridge Village.

We appreciate and do not wish to lose Longstock PC's proven-effective and proactive commitment towards maintaining and developing its own community character and wellbeing.

We hope TVC will recognise that there is no need to change, and possibly damage, what seems to be a highly successful working relationship between the neighbouring parishes, each tending to the particular, but different, needs and aspirations of their respective communities. 'If it ain't broke...', please don't 'mend' it!

Thank you for receiving our submission.

30.9. Longstock resident

I understand that a review is in progress which has on its agenda looking at the boundaries between the civil parishes of Longstock and Stockbridge. I believe that the present status quo dates back to the 19th century and, whilst as nearly always in historical contexts, contains anomalies, nonetheless a long established coherence of identity is far more important to Longstock than a need to "tidy up" its boundaries. In summary, the present formats of Longstock and Stockbridge work well in complement and are well established, please let us not change.

30.10. Longstock resident

I have lived in Longstock for [a number of years] [redacted].

A letter from Sophie Walters (Chairman, Longstock Parish Council) informs me that there is a possibility that you might seek to re-draw the boundary of this parish so that the Southern area is to be a part of the Stockbridge parish. I do hope that this will not happen.

The boundary between Longstock and Stockbridge has been in place for many years and it would be a great pity to amend that boundary just for the sake of change. In my view history should be observed - there must have been a good reason for the boundaries - let them remain. Nothing much has changed in all those years. Stockbridge has lost a lot of shops serving essentials such as SCATS and less essentials such as antiques. Longstock has not changed and is well capable of representing all residents in North and South of the parish.

Whilst in [a previous job] I was told that the height of a Civil Servant's achievement was to get a form changed to their requirement, even though it made no difference to the content, just the layout !

Please do not change the parish boundary. Let us retain some happiness with history and logic of the presence.

30.11. Longstock residents

my husband and I wish to register our views regarding the Community Governance Review, specifically on the question of the boundaries between civil parishes. We live on Houghton Road in Longstock, at the southern end of the village and with Stockbridge just the other side of the river. We understand that the question of which civil parish our part of Longstock should belong to is likely to arise; whether residents along Houghton Road should be part of Stockbridge or remain as they are at present, part of Longstock.

We feel strongly that we are part of Longstock and wish to remain so. Of course we have Stockbridge within walking distance which is lovely. We [have lived in Stockbridge in the past], and we know from our direct experience that Stockbridge and Longstock are two very distinct communities that co-exist harmoniously but enjoy their own identities. We have been warmly welcomed into the Longstock community and wish to remain part of that civil parish with all its individual character and history, which is after all the very nature of England's countryside. We trust that our views will be represented in the review and have copied in the chair of our parish council accordingly.

30.12. Longstock resident

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any border changes between Stockbridge on the East bank of the River Test and Longstock on the Right bank of the River Test. These two communities have distinct identities and it is important that Longstock remains a diverse community with its range of housing options and Community School. It should not just become a residential gentrified add on to Stockbridge. It must be remembered that in the Norman Domesday book Longstock is called Stoches and Stockbridge is White Somborne - later becoming Stockbridge because of its association with the older community of Longstock, created by the West Saxons.

The River Test has been a boundary between the two communities for thousands of years, and marked the boundary between the Ancient British Tribes of the Durotriges, West side - Danebury and Houghton Down based. and Belgae on the Left Side - Winchester based.

To summarise the Ancient boundary marked by the River Test has been used by Ancient Britons, Romans, Saxons, Norman's, and historic ally right up to the present time. The Ancient Britons called the River "Terstan" meaning Fast Waters and the Romans called it Trexula. The Saxons referred to it as Terstan in their records. The River Test is an Ancient and natural boundary - and still marks an important divide between the two distinct

communities of Longstock and a Stockbridge. As a resident of Longstock for [a number of years] I say let us honour the Ancestors, Ancient and Modern and let the Boundary stand.

30.13. Longstock resident

I am writing to express my strong opposition to ANY border changes between Stockbridge of the East River Bank of the River Test and Longstock of the right bank of the River Test.

These two communities have distinct identities and it remains paramount that Longstock remains as a diverse community with a range of housing options and a community school. It must not become a residential gentrified add on to Stockbridge. These boundaries have been in place thousands of years and should not be changed for any reason or anyone.

30.14. Longstock resident

I'm writing to protest about the proposed change to the boundary between Longstock and Stockbridge. The boundary has always been down the middle of the River Test and I see no good reason to change it.

I understand that the matter was discussed and a final decision about this matter was made a few years ago. Why is it being brought up again?

30.15. Longstock residents

We live in Longstock and fervently request that the boundary does not change to include Roman Road in the civil parish of Stockbridge. We wish to remain in Longstock as we feel we identify

With Longstock Parish. The river Test has always been the natural boundary between Longstock and Stockbridge. We are a more rural area in Longstock whereas Stockbridge is a small town. There are many benefits to being in Longstock such as the Smiths Charity monthly lunch club which is for Longstock residents. The village Fete. The Longstock Parish Council who have always served us very well.

We have lived in the parish of Longstock [a number of years] and wish to remain so.

We fervently hope you will take our views in to account and we can keep our existing boundaries.

30.16. Longstock resident

I am a resident of Longstock, having been here for [a number of years]. We reside at [redacted].

I wish to comment on the Community Governance Review.

Basically I see no reason to alter the status quo. Although Stockbridge and Longstock are quite different in the terms of traffic ,shops and congestion of houses, they complement each other. Longstock, both north and south of the A30 is a rural settlement with houses surrounded by productive farmland. Nearby there have been massive housing estates added to the villages and towns which has clearly meant loss of green spaces, a change in nature of the area from rural to urban and also a complete change in the character of the settlement.

The Parish Council of Longstock are vigilant and truly represent the views of the local community. I feel that parish councils are the only area of local government where democracy is truly represented, rather than decisions being made along party political lines and allegiances.

There is therefore no doubt in my mind that Longstock should maintain its present parish boundaries, which I believe have been in place for hundreds of years. The village has not changed significantly structurally in that time. It is still a rural community, which is surrounded by land owned by 2 large farming families.

Please do not think that I am against Stockbridge parish council in any way. Although I live in Longstock, I [have worked in Stockbridge in the past]. [I have always found Stockbridge Parish Council to be] friendly, helpful and understanding.

In summary Longstock above and below the A30 is a very different settlement to Stockbridge and each parish council has its own priorities. It would be quite wrong to alter the present arrangement.

30.17. Longstock residents

We would like to strongly object to any boundaries being moved between Stockbridge and Longstock.

We feel this holds a lot of historic value in the community, it's always been understood any houses south of the River Test is Longstock.

We feel that this will only benefit Stockbridge Parish Council, financially, but will not benefit Longstock at all, in fact it will have a massive negative impact on Longstock if the boundary is moved.

I was born in Longstock and very much still want to be in Longstock.

We have a very pro active parish council in Longstock and they will always do what is best for the village and always listen to the views of the residents, we are a tight knit community, unfortunately Stockbridge doesn't share these similarities!

30.18. Longstock resident

It may surprise some Stockbridge residents to learn that those of us who live just over the main Test bridge are in the civil parish of Longstock. This includes houses in Houghton Road, Salisbury Hill and Roman Road. When we first moved here it seemed a bit surprising but we could claim 'dual nationality' and enjoy being part of both communities. We noticed that the Longstock Parish Council was active and effective but so, at first, was the Stockbridge Council.

This state of affairs is now being reconsidered because Test Valley Borough Council is undertaking a Community Governance Review which will look at matters such as boundaries. Longstock residents can say whether we would wish to remain part of Longstock or to join Stockbridge. Twenty years ago it would have seemed a 'no-brainer'. You looked at the map and there was no doubt where you were. Today I find it a 'no-brainer' in the opposite direction. Let me explain why.

I said that the Longstock Parish Council was active and effective. They take a close interest in all planning applications, get potholes fixed, help with flooding – if there is a problem they

are on it. Their character became obvious some three years ago when there was an application by David Wilson Homes to build a 48 home development on the hill above and west of Roman Road. The effect of this on Stockbridge would have been very serious but the opposition nearly all came from Longstock Parish Council and the residents of Roman Road. This proposal was turned down but threatens to return.

How have residents of Stockbridge been served by their council? Let us take two issues. Their interest in and effectiveness in relation to planning has been illustrated by the recent development on the north side of the High Street. There is a building which is, to put it gently, without admirers. But the Parish Council had made no objection to it.

Then there is parking. Why is it such a problem? Some cars are there all day while their owners are taken by friends to a commuter station. Some are staff in shops or businesses who should park elsewhere, leaving room for customers. Some businesses use the roads to store their vehicles. There are walkers who park and disappear for long stretches. An effective council would have ensured that, as in Overton, there was a three hour parking limit except for residents. And they would have ensured that the owners of shops and businesses see that all their staff park off the High Street. Here too, Stockbridge Parish Council seem unable to act.

None of this gives me confidence that any unwanted future developments would be firmly resisted by Stockbridge Parish Council. Which is why I prefer to stay in Longstock.

30.19. Longstock resident

I am writing to you regarding the above review which I believe that TVBC are currently undertaking.

I live in Roman Road which is under the governance of Longstock parish council and I wholeheartedly wish to remain a part thereof.

I feel that the Longstock parish council represents the people and residents of Roman road better than the Stockbridge parish council could ever do. We are represented on the Longstock parish council by several residents of our local community who take our views, suggestions and concerns seriously.

Longstock parish council seem take account of the concerns of those living in Roman Road, whereas Stockbridge parish council seem to have little interest to the point where, when in Stockbridge I have often heard derogatory and insulting comments regarding the residents of our community. Which indeed begs the question why we would even consider a boundary change to join a parish council that would rather not have us anywhere near their precious Stockbridge.

From a simplistic point of view, what are the benefits of joining another parish council whose only concern is to enlarge itself to the detriment of other local communities, I for one cannot see any advantages only disadvantages.

In my personal opinion it appears Stockbridge parish council and the TVBC wish to consolidate their position in political, planning and of course financial control which will undermine those residents in our local communities.

The status quo has been in place since the 19th century has worked to the benefit of the local residents/communities not just the powerful and rich.

I would like to clarify my position on this matter. I do not under any circumstances wish to be part of Stockbridge or under the auspices of Stockbridge parish council.

Like all the residents of Roman road I feel, as do many, that those who have the audacity to voice their concerns against the planned boundary changes will simply be ignored as seems to be case in both local and national politics today.

30.20. Longstock resident

I write to express my wish to retain the current boundaries between Longstock and Stockbridge.

I came to [Longstock as a child] and when I got married it was in Longstock Church, although Stockbridge Church is nearer to my home.

I have always felt part of the rural community of Longstock, although I frequently walk to the shops and businesses of the neighbouring parish of Stockbridge, and our home is within Stockbridge's conservation area.

The two communities are very different, Longstock with its large farms, Stockbridge with its shops and cafes, and I always identify with Longstock and contribute to its many community activities.

The river has always been the boundary between the two settlements, a river famed the world over for its fishing and, being on the west side of the river, our home is firmly in Longstock [redacted].

30.21. Longstock resident

I am writing to express my strong opposition any changes to the Longstock/Stockbridge border.

I grew up in Longstock, attending Test Valley School, and [my family and I] have always had a great sense of pride and strong sense of community being a part of Longstock and enjoying the community school and other amenities.

I feel it would really strip Longstock of a very positive aspect if the school was taken out of our borders. We are a small but proud and passionate village, and hope to preserve the amenities we have been lucky enough to grow up with for the next generation.

I hope you take my views into consideration.

30.22. Longstock resident

I have always been a Longstock resident and wish to remain so. I feel I identify with the rural parish of Longstock rather than the small town of Stockbridge. The river Test has always been the natural boundary between Stockbridge and Longstock. I feel very strongly about this as do many other people and fervently hope the boundaries do not change.

30.23. Longstock resident

In response to your Test Valley Borough Council Community Governance Review request to local government electors for responses from those who "appear to have an interest in the review". I wish to record that I am against any boundary change that might be being proposed [along Roman Road] to supposedly better align with the Revised Local Plan

(December 2015) - Settlement Boundary Map 36 Stockbridge (Including part of Longstock Parish).

I agree that it is important that the local community is adequately consulted, in particular when Stockbridge is seen as a "Key Service Area" and as such an area which potentially could sustain further development, and more particular when two heritage assets exist within the immediate vicinity - the Stockbridge Roman Causeway believed to be the finest in North Europe, and the world renowned rare pristine chalk-stream the River Test. Under Planning Framework Guidelines further developments have to better enhance such heritage assets. In these circumstances any sustainable further developments will have to be extraordinarily measured anyway and need not logically be significantly impacted by boundary changes such as this.

I wish to refer to your reported first phase review of existing TVBC Parish boundary arrangements between 13 November 2017 and 29th January 2018 to see if it is necessary to change them. Specifically there is concern that at the southern end of the Longstock Parish the existing boundary between Longstock and Stockbridge might be changed when no significant net benefit accrues equally to both Stockbridge and Longstock. I have a vested interest since my home where I have lived since 2003 is located within the proposed Map 36 Stockbridge Settlement Boundary (Including part of Longstock Parish) which happens satisfactorily in all other administrative ways to fall within the existing Longstock Parish boundaries. I am not aware that I personally will gain any net benefit, nor in my experience do I believe will a vast majority of similar co-located residents.

My concerns are summarised as follows:

- i. I am not aware of a majority of affected Longstock Parish residents, or even one, requesting such a change.
- ii. I am not aware of any official specific questionnaire being distributed to households within the directly affected areas to fully, rationally and properly canvass opinion. This omission infringes enforceable EU Planning Framework Guidelines which I understand are intended to be absorbed in their entirety when the Acquis Communautaire is fully transferred to UK jurisdiction in May 2019.

As evidence of my vastly predominant personal affiliation to Longstock I have [held various civic positions in the parish in the past]. From my local community experience I would presume that the vast majority of residents within this proposed Settlement Boundary Map 36 Stockbridge where it includes part of Longstock Parish would not consider there are any significant net benefits and traditionally they would prefer to stay with their existing very well-established administrative arrangements i.e. with what they know. I understand that The Parish Boundary with Stockbridge since early Middle Ages when Stockbridge was known as Lower Sombourne was geographically split at the ford over the River Test mainstream - the East/West boundary being established as the middle of the river. In consequence Longstock has always stretched in a southerly direction beyond Stockbridge on the western side of the world renowned River Test. As a community Longstock has also in consequence always been recognised as "very long" and over the centuries also as a community has always successfully adjusted as such.

The idea that affected Longstock residents might be embarrassed by this historic quirk of geography would be a nonsense and in this age of increasingly more automated administration centrally such a change becomes evermore wholly meaningless. In the strict definition of the word this is therefor not an example of an anomaly, will not noticeably improve effectiveness and convenience for either directly affected residents or central administration, and both the identities and interests of the vast majority of directly affected residents are better served by retaining the existing boundaries. In this instance I beg that

residents who happen to live just across the river from the convenience of Stockbridge High Street should sensibly not be patronised that they might "look" and "feel" like Stockbridge residents when they are not, and are therefore not part of the "status quo".

I hope this is a help not a hindrance in your deliberations.

30.24. Longstock residents

I am writing to advise of my objection to the proposed amendments to the boundary of Longstock Parish under the Community Governance Review.

The proposal suggests the amalgamation of some 18 parishes. Dissolving the boundaries of so many parishes and amalgamating them into one 'super' parish will remove all local representation.

A single parish council covering such a wide and diverse population will lead to the wishes of local people being completely overlooked. In fact I believe that many of the smaller communities will not be represented at all leaving them open to unsuitable and unacceptable alteration this damaging the integrity and character of existing rural communities.

30.25. Longstock residents

[My spouse and I] have lived in Longstock for [a number of years] and would never change anything and just lately it seems very popular with tourists as well.

To allow powers to be built up to 800 houses near by would Stockbridge be worse than it is now which is a nightmare to even get to the co-op.

So to conclude [my spouse and I] are of the same opinion, leave things as they are and don't spoil a beautiful village that we love [redacted] and have put our hearts into it.

In other words we oppose the idea strongly.

30.26. Longstock residents

We understand that, amongst many other matters, the possibility of switching the southern part of Longstock parish council area to the Stockbridge parish council area is under consideration. In our view, this would be a very sensible step as there is a clear disconnect between the central part of the Longstock area- centred geographically upon the church and Peat Spade public house- and the southern part immediately adjacent to Stockbridge high street. There is a much stronger community of interest between Stockbridge and the part of Longstock over the bridge than with the central Longstock area.

31. Stockbridge

31.1. Stockbridge resident

I am delighted to see that a much needed review into local governance is about to take place. As a resident in Stockbridge it is obvious that a review is very necessary. Interviews for yet another Clerk, three extra Councillors sort after and often inaction through lack of funding and a will to make things happen in evidence.

Appalling planning decisions (well documented) taken it appears in random moments or by persuasion of specific authority allowing for exceptions rather than the rule being applied. There are currently two councillors on the TVBC planning authority that own land who wish to develop their land into two enormous sites. Sadly this form of greed is often apparent on Borough and Parish Councils countrywide and the communities suffer as a result because they lack clout. A Borough or Parish Council should represent the views of the community and not the views or the desires of a few Councillors. Why then do we need a Parish Council at all? They have no funds they have no clout? What is the point. This is why you do not attract councillors to Stockbridge Parish Council.

Taking for example the existing need for change such as in the Parking in Stockbridge, there are two sides to the argument. The traders want more parking because their businesses need volume and their customers complain. The residents do not, saying you can always find somewhere to park if you are prepared to walk. So why does it take so long for the issue to be settled? The Parish Council lack any teeth for fear of upsetting either one party or the other. Why do we need the Parish Council without teeth or money – we do not. If the Traders want additional parking, then they should fund the operation. A policed three hour parking system as in Overton for example, would work for all. Get on with it. The Parish council will not make the decision.

Speeding – put a camera on Wilton Hill and the other three roads into Stockbridge prosecute anyone over the limit. Speeding will stop over night. Again lack of teeth is the issue here. Or is it money?

Dog fouling – no one has been prosecuted and yet the paths down to and through the meadow in Stockbridge at littered with disgusting and quite unnecessary filth. The footpath behind Lillies is narrow and eroding fast (another issue for the local community) and for elderly people who live in Trafalgar way and Nelson Close this pretty route to the High street has become dog poo alley! Although significant steps have been taken to improve the situation dog owners are to blame and much more effort in educating them is necessary. No money, no teeth, no effort results in this abuse. What is the point of having a Parish Council at all.

The above four items are a few in the current headlines. Solution? A form of monthly surgeries or access to a community forum where the weight of Public opinion can be tested and reviewed at Borough and County Council level. Make the Borough Councils much more accountable to their local communities by appointing a liaison officer with a budget to each community of say 3000 people. Keep all planning in County central who work to a development plan in areas where schools, hospitals, amenities can expand and thrive and only grant additional development consent where these increases are sustainable.

Stockbridge, Longstock, Broughton, Houghton, Leckford seems to me to be a perfect example of a ward using the River as its central theme. Each with its own special schools, surgeries, amenities that relate to an unspoilt beautiful Rural Parish. If the council leads on this then I for one would support it wholeheartedly and be prepared to give it some of my time.

31.2. Stockbridge resident

I understand from an article in Stockbridge Parish magazine that TVBC is carrying out a review into the existing parish arrangements throughout the borough, and that one aspect of this concerns the existing parish boundaries.

I think that the current parish boundary on the west side of Stockbridge is anomalous. The current boundary is the River Test, with the properties on the west side of the river being in Longstock. However, for all practical purposes, these properties are part of Stockbridge, and their inhabitants use all the facilities and amenities of Stockbridge, being much closer than Longstock, which has its own village centre with pub, church and village hall a couple of miles to the north. The current boundary leads to a number of anomalies;

- Planning; development in this area impacts significantly on Stockbridge and hardly affects the village of Longstock. However, it is Longstock which is the officially consulted parish council, and Stockbridge isn't even officially notified.
- The precept paid by the inhabitants of this area goes to Longstock, while most of the facilities they use are provided by Stockbridge.
- The housing in this area (notably in Roman Road) in practice contributes to the 'affordable housing' for people working in Stockbridge; however, in planning terms it is attributed to Longstock.

There is a wide tract of agricultural land between the village of Longstock and the collection of properties on the west side of the River Test abutting the west end of Stockbridge. I think the parish boundaries should be adjusted to go through this area of open land so that the existing community is no longer divided by an artificial administrative boundary.

31.3. Longstock residents

See item 30.26.

One additional response was received in relation to Stockbridge parish after the close of the consultation period.

32. Over Wallop

32.1. Over Wallop Parish Council

This is to confirm that we placed a notice about the review in the Wallops Parish News and circulated the details to parish councillors.

To date no comments or suggestions have been received and this was confirmed at our parish council meeting on 8th January.

Please therefore accept 'no comments' from this parish.

33. Nether Wallop

No consultation responses have been received in relation to Nether Wallop parish.

34. Broughton

No consultation responses have been received in relation to Broughton parish.

35. Houghton

No consultation responses have been received in relation to Houghton parish.

36. Little Somborne

No consultation responses have been received in relation to Little Somborne parish.

37. Kings Somborne

37.1. Kings Somborne Parish Council

My Councillors thank you for the opportunity to comment on this phase of the Community Governance Review and for the presentation given at the recent Test Valley Association seminar.

Their views have not changed since last submitted in that they have concern at the introduction of the Mid-Test ward which will have three borough councillors sharing responsibilities in lieu of the one dedicated borough councillor we have currently. This concern manifests itself in the belief that there will not be the close attention given to what we hold dear, a situation likely to be aggravated should the new borough councillors come from different political backgrounds. Also, we do not subscribe to basing the distribution of areas of responsibility on numbers alone given the spread of our rural communities.

However, we recognize the dye is cast and will await the final outcome of the Review with interest.

37.2. Kings Somborne resident

I am a former [parish councillor]. After repeated readings of the guidance document, I find it virtually impossible to respond to the review because no perceived weaknesses or problems with the current system of governance are identified, and therefore no specific improvements can be proposed to overcome them.

Is it the intention to integrate some of the PCs into larger units on the basis of number of electors? I am against any such move.

Members of rural PCs in the TV generally live locally and therefore possess unique insights into local affairs and concerns. They are personally acquainted with many local residents with whom they can easily and frequently have informal discussions about matters that concern the community. PCs can therefore respond rapidly and effectively to local community opinion in making presentations to the principal authority (TVBC).

Enlargement or integration of smaller PCs to form larger units covering larger areas and serving larger constituencies will do nothing to improve communication between the communities of TV and TVBC, or whatever Administrative Authority may succeed it: on the contrary, it will damage it.

If any changes are made partly or purely for financial reasons related to austerity, rather than to facilitate improve governance, this motivation must be explicitly revealed.

I apologise if my response is not appropriate, or misses the point. But, as I write above, I really don't understand what you expect from residents of TV. Perhaps you could enlighten me.

38. Ashley

No consultation responses have been received in relation to Ashley parish.

39. West Tytherley and Frenchmoor

39.1. West Tytherley and Frenchmoor Parish Council

I am writing on behalf of West Tytherley and Frenchmoor Parish Council. As you will be aware the neighbouring Parish of Buckholt is currently not represented by a Parish Council nor does it hold an annual Parish meeting.

The Parish Council of West Tytherley and Frenchmoor voted unanimously on January 15th 2018, that Buckholt Parish should become attached to West Tytherley and Frenchmoor. The council agreed that the new Parish Council would be known as 'West Tytherley, Frenchmoor and Buckholt' Parish council. This was how the parish of Frenchmoor became attached to West Tytherley and is a precedent the council wish to follow.

We are submitting this proposal as part of Test Valley Borough Council's Community Governance Review.

40. Buckholt

40.1. Steven Lugg – Chief Executive of Hampshire Association of Local Councils

See item 2.1.

40.2. Buckholt resident

Last year you wrote to us explaining about Test Valley Borough Council's Governance Review. I live in the Parish of Buckholt and understand that we are not currently represented by a Parish Council. Given that West Tytherley is our village, where my children go to school and we use a lot of the village facilities it would make sense to me that the Parish of Buckholt should join West Tytherley and Frenchmoor Parish Council.

41. East Tytherley

41.1. East Tytherley Parish Council

East Tytherley parish council have resolved that there be **no change** to the parish boundary as part of the community governance review.

42. East Dean

42.1. East Dean Parish Council

East Dean Parish council have resolved that no changes are necessary to the East Dean parish arrangements or boundary.

43. Lockerley

43.1. Lockerley Parish Council

Lockerley parish council would request that no changes are made to the boundary or arrangements for the parish of Lockerley, as part of the community governance review.

44. Mottisfont

44.1. Mottisfont Parish Council

Mottisfont Parish Council was represented at the briefing held on 23 November to the Test Valley APTC. We have had a formal discussion and resolved at our January meeting to seek no change in the boundaries, name or membership of the parish council. We have not been approached by any neighbouring parish to change any of our boundaries.

45. Bossington

No consultation responses have been received in relation to Bossington parish.

46. Sherfield English

46.1. Sherfield English Parish Council

Sherfield English parish council have discussed and concluded that they see no benefit to making changes to the existing parish boundary.

47. Melchet Park and Plaitford

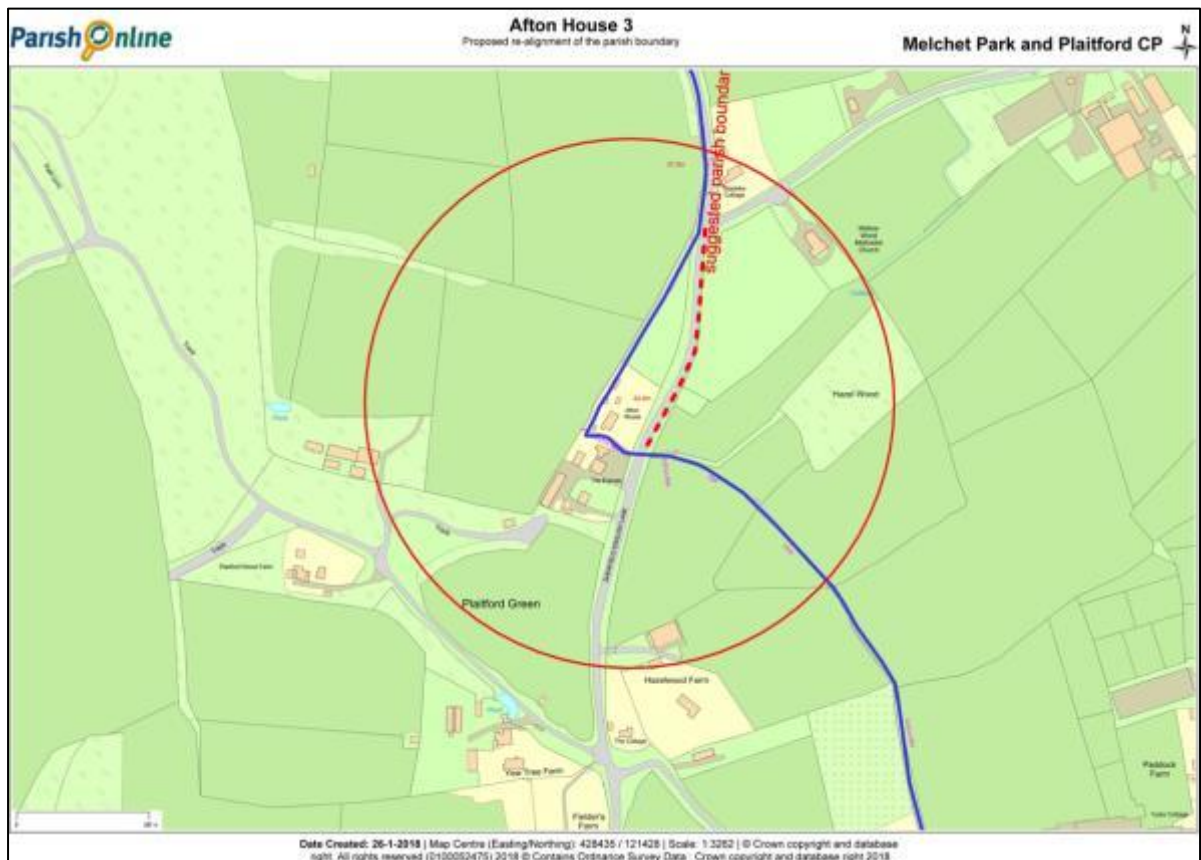
47.1. Melchet Park and Plaitford Parish Council

Afton House

The parish boundary does a kink round the back of the house which puts this one dwelling in Wellow despite its immediate neighbour being in Melchet Park and Plaitford. The Parish Council has consulted with the owners and they also think it makes sense for the boundary to be adjusted such that Afton House is in the parish of Melchet Park & Plaitford.

Afton House 2 should aid you in locating the property.

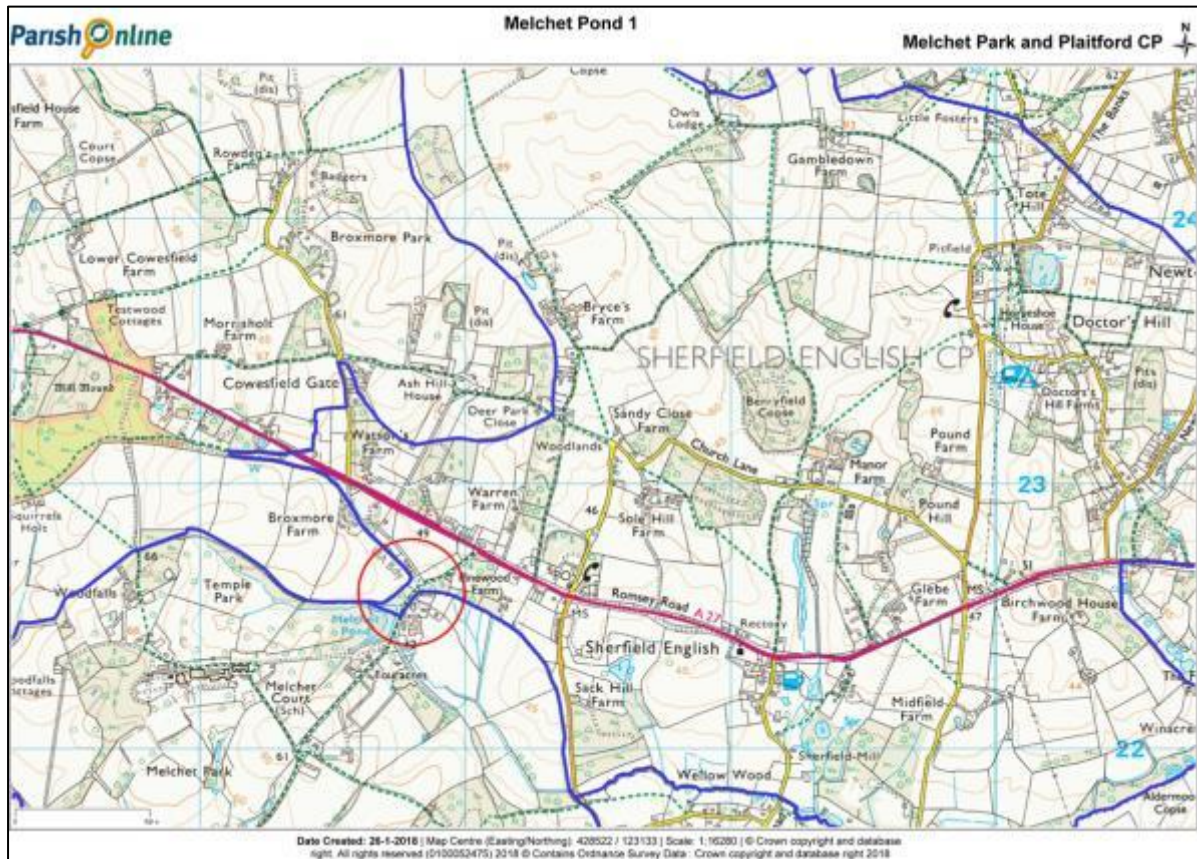
Afton House 3 shows the current anomalous boundary (blue line) and the broken red line is our suggestion for where the boundary should be to ensure that both the house and garden are in the parish of Melchet Park & Plaitford

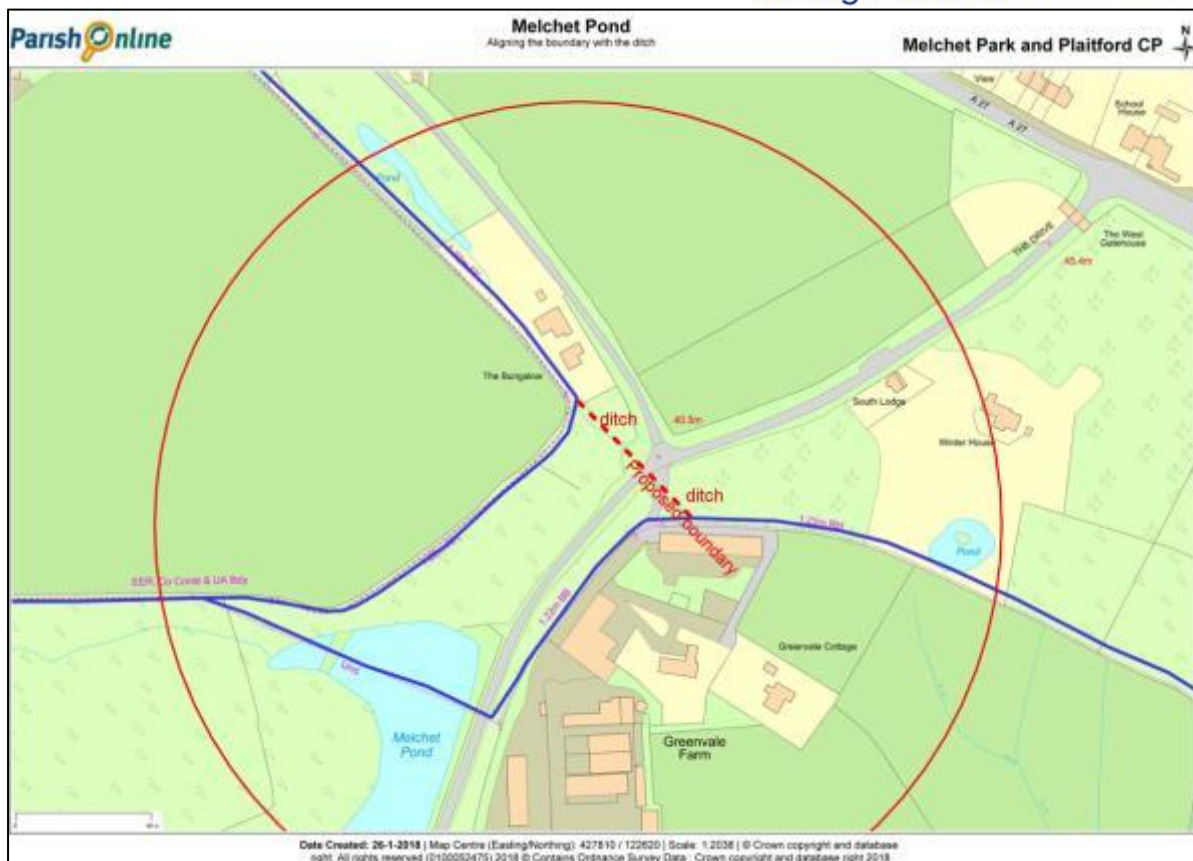


Melchet Pond

Melchet Pond 1 gives the general location.

Melchet Pond 3 shows the existing boundary and the ditch which it is suggested the revised boundary should follow. (The ditch line can't be seen in the third file as it is under the suggested line of the boundary.). The Parish Council has no explanation for the extension of the parish of Sherfield English into the Pond – it looks quite anomalous. Melchet Pond 3 shows the suggested line of the proposed boundary change which simply continues to follow the ditch across Compton's Drive





48. Awbridge

48.1. Awbridge Parish Council

Awbridge Parish Council wishes to respond to the review as follows:

Properties near to the junction of Old Salisbury Lane and Danes Road. These properties are within Awbridge. However, part of their gardens are within Romsey Extra. It would seem sensible to regularise this anomaly by taking these properties wholly into Awbridge Parish.

Old Salisbury Lane. It is felt that Stanbridge House and its garden, which similarly sits in isolation as part of Romsey Extra but surrounded by properties in Awbridge, should be transferred to this parish. This would be carried out at the request of the owner and has been agreed in principle by Romsey Extra Parish Council.

Properties in Stanbridge Lane on the B3084 opposite Stanbridge Earls, namely The Little House and Appletree Cottage. These properties sit in isolation on the boundary with Romsey Extra and it would seem sensible to absorb them into Awbridge.

It is understood that Romsey Extra Parish Council may be amenable to small changes to the boundaries to address anomalies, and we have copied colleagues there into this response.

49. Wellow

49.1. Wellow Parish Council

Wellow Parish Council considered the above at its full Council meeting earlier this month and would reply as follows.

With the exception of possibly one minor boundary issues affecting a property along Salisbury Road/A27 where the existing boundary cuts across land [subsequently confirmed to be Longdown Cottage], meaning that the garden is part of Wellow Parish although the house is in an adjoining Parish, believed to be Awbridge [subsequently confirmed to be Romsey Extra], Wellow Parish Council is of the view that there is no need to change the Parish boundaries.

However, with regard to the one small anomaly referred to above, Wellow Parish would propose that the boundary is moved to stop at the property and follow the A27/Salisbury Road to re-join the existing boundary further along, meaning that both the property and garden would then be in Awbridge Parish [subsequently amended to Romsey Extra parish].

Furthermore, the Parish Council wishes to advise that it is not in favour of amending the existing boundary to take in any of the Romsey Extra Parish currently bordering Wellow.

50. Michelmersh and Timsbury

50.1. Michelmersh and Timsbury Parish Council

My Parish Council has addressed the matters set out in the Terms of Reference for this Review, and at this stage has concluded that there is no necessity to change existing parish arrangements. To date, the Council has not received any representations or suggestions from residents. in connection with the Review.

The Council is considering whether it would be beneficial to change the 'style' of the parish (perhaps to 'village') and may recommend such a change if this is supported by the results of consultation with residents.

51. Braishfield

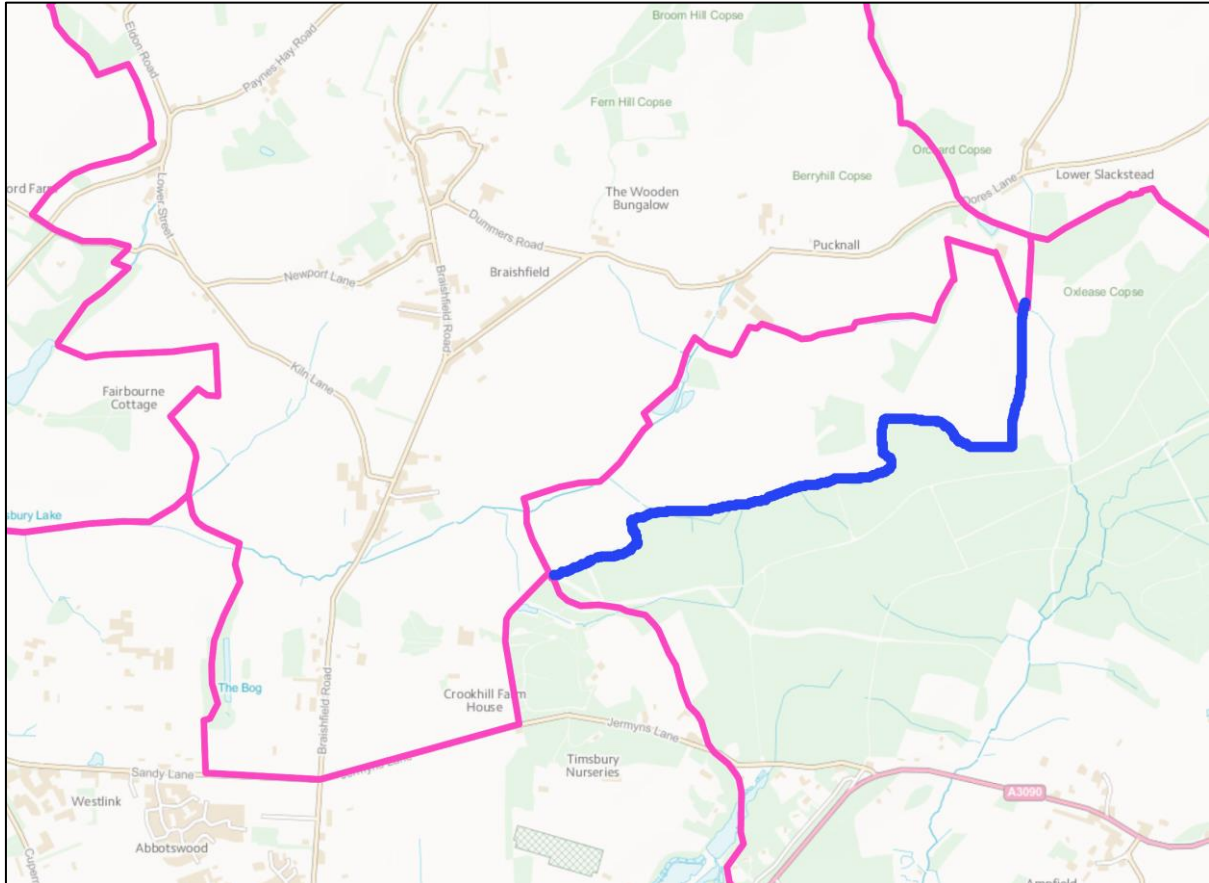
51.1. Braishfield Parish Council

Braishfield Parish Council has considered the contents of the Community Governance Review.

Following consultation with the adjoining Parish Councils of Ampfield Parish Council, Michelmersh & Timsbury Parish Council, and Romsey Extra Parish Council, Braishfield Parish Council supports the following change to its boundary with Ampfield Parish Council:

- The area North of Ampfield Woods should become part of the parish of Braishfield. The proposed new boundary is shown in blue [on the map below].

I trust this is satisfactory, but should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.



51.2. Ampfield Parish Council

See item 52. 1.

52. Ampfield

52.1. Ampfield Parish Council

In order to remove anomalies between wards and parishes introduced by the Boundary Commission Review of Test Valley we recommend that the western boundary of Ampfield PC be extended to include parts of Crampmoor as flagged as “1” and “2” on the attached map.

We believe that the woodland to the North of the A3090, flagged “3” on the attached map, is naturally part of Crampmoor and should move with the properties. Such a move has no impact upon Ward numbers as there are no properties involved.

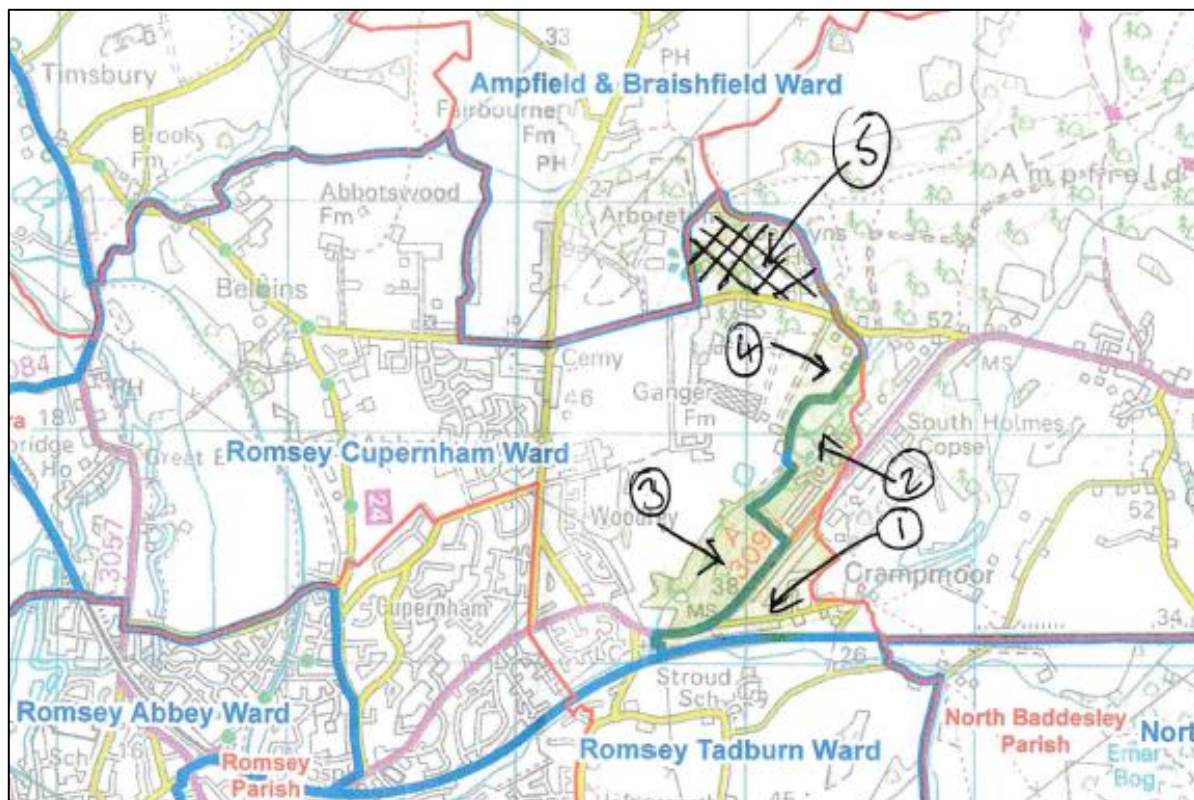
Similarly, we recommend that the Ampfield PC boundary be extended to include the small number of properties at the Eastern end of Jermyns Lane as flagged “4” and “5” on the attached map. In this we go slightly beyond the ward changes introduced by the BC Review as we believe that the properties are naturally part of the Ampfield Community. We would not wish to extend as far as Jermyns House which we would recommend being part of Braishfield PC in common with the Arboretum.

We are content with the proposals put forward by Braishfield PC regarding Jermyns Lane and Pucknall Farm.

Ampfield PC has a complement of 11 councillors, although in practice it is some while since we had more than 9 Members. Taking account of numbers of Councillors for similar, and some larger, councils we recommend that the appropriate number of councillors should be set as 9.

Other than the minor boundary changes recommended above, triggered by the BC Review, we would oppose any proposal to merge with another Parish.

We wish to retain our existing name of “Ampfield Parish Council”.



52.2. Braishfield Parish Council

See item 51.1.

52.3. North Baddesley Parish Council

See item 53.1.

52.4. Ampfield resident

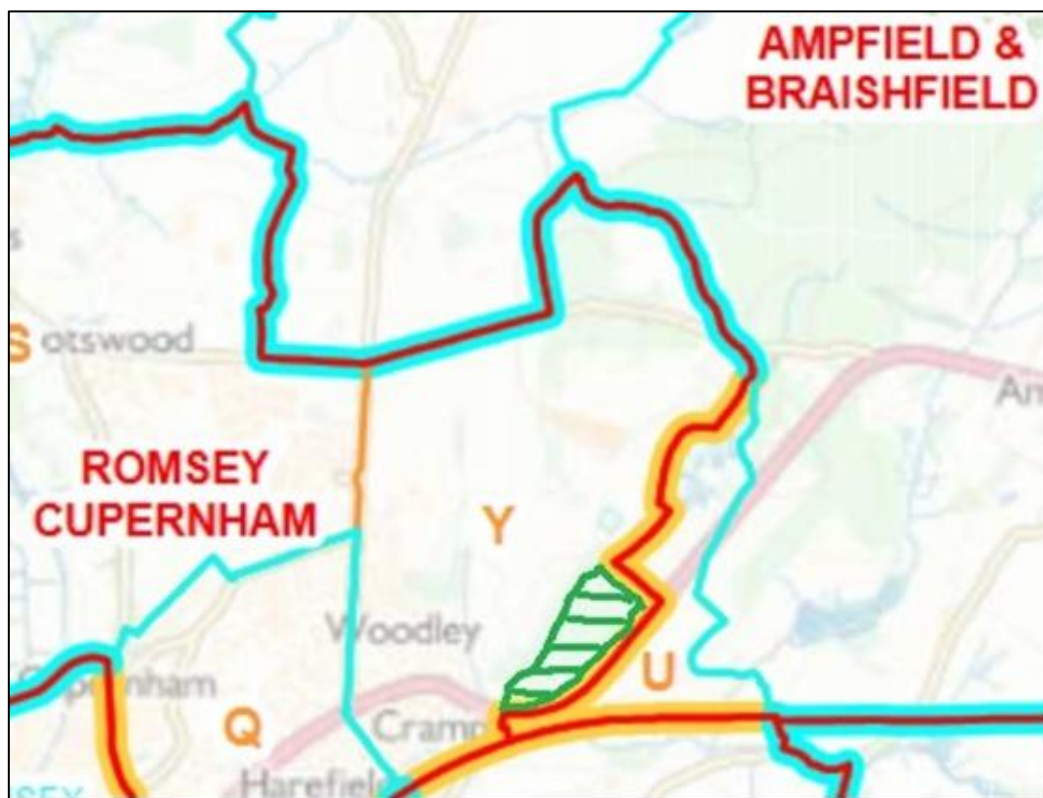
My wife and I are residents of the Straight Mile, Ampfield. At present, part of the Straight Mile falls within Romsey Extra parish and Romsey Extra borough ward and part falls within Ampfield parish and Ampfield & Braishfield borough ward.

In October 2017, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) published its final recommendations for Test Valley Borough Council's new electoral arrangements. They propose that the residential housing portion of the Straight Mile that is

presently within the Romsey Extra borough ward for Test Valley Borough Council is placed instead in an Ampfield and Braishfield ward. This makes a lot of sense because the residential housing on the Straight Mile in both Ampfield and Romsey Extra parishes all has the same character of houses on large plots located in a woodland area and also with some of the other housing in the Ampfield parish. For this reason, and to remove an anomaly between the borough ward boundary and parish boundary, it would make sense to move the residential housing portion of the Straight Mile that is currently within Romsey Extra parish to Ampfield parish.

As well as moving the residential housing portion of the Straight Mile, it would also be sensible to move Ganger Wood from Romsey Extra to Ampfield parish as it forms an integral part of the Straight Mile. Ganger Wood has no housing and no electors, but does form an important part of the character of the Straight Mile. With the proposed borough wards, this would mean that Ganger Wood would fall within Romsey Cupernham borough ward, but within Ampfield parish. I understand from correspondence with a Review Officer at the LGBCE, that if changes are made to parish boundaries, then Test Valley Borough Council can ask the LGBCE to take another look at moving Ganger Wood into Ampfield parish for Test Valley Borough Council's new electoral arrangements. The LGBCE were not able to consider moving Ganger Wood into Ampfield parish at the time of the review because to do so would involve creating a parish ward solely consisting of Ganger Wood, being represented by a parish councillor representing no electors. If the parish boundaries are changed so as to include Ganger Wood in Ampfield parish, then this problem goes away and both parish and ward boundaries would reflect the character of the local area.

On the LGBCE map below the area of Ganger Wood is shown in green hatching, the current borough boundary in cyan colour and the proposed borough boundary is shown in red. I would suggest that both the parish and borough boundaries be moved to include Ganger Wood in Ampfield (& Braishfield).



In summary, please consider moving the green hatched area above (Ganger Wood) from Romsey Extra parish to Ampfield parish so as to keep the whole of the Straight Mile together and then contact LGBCCE to ask them to do the same with the Test Valley wards.

53. North Baddesley

53.1. North Baddesley Parish Council

Following your email dated 9th November 2017 regarding the above, North Baddesley Parish Council would like to put forward the following proposals:

- that North Baddesley PC gives away the whole of Emer Farm to Ampfield PC,
- that North Baddesley PC gives away Thorn Hill to Valley Park PC,
- that North Baddesley PC takes Roundabouts Copse, Wren's Farm and Castle Lane Farm from Chilworth PC.

I hope that this is clear but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries.

I attach [a relevant map] and I will be informing Ampfield PC, Valley Park PC and Chilworth PC accordingly .



53.2. Valley Park Parish Council

I am writing to let you know that Valley Park Parish Council would like to support the proposals put forward by North Baddesley Parish Council regarding the Community Governance Review in Test Valley. According to the parish boundary for Valley Park we believe all of the existing homes within Valley Park should remain as one united parish.

54. Romsey Extra

54.1. Romsey Extra Parish Council

TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The above document was considered by Romsey Extra Parish Council at its meeting on 18 January 2018 and resolved:

“Romsey Extra Parish Council wishes to retain its present status as a fully independent parish council, and furthermore to keep all of its current boundaries in their present form subject to very minor revisions in agreement with neighbouring parishes”

and

“Romsey Extra Parish Council believes that, because of the nature of the parish with most of the dwellings located in one quadrant, the residents are best served by the parish not being ‘warded’ for electoral or any other purposes, and the present arrangement should therefore be retained”.

54.2. Ampfield Parish Council

See item 52. 1.

54.3. Cllr Roy Perry – Hampshire County Councillor (Romsey Rural division)

I write as County Councillor for the new Romsey Rural Division in the south of the Borough covering the 12 parishes from Chilworth to West Tytherley.

I recognise the very important and effective role played by Parish councils in the community and public life and in service delivery whilst acknowledging their diversity. The parishes are a distinctive and valuable characteristic of the Test Valley epitomised in the Test Valley Tapestry.

In my Division the parishes vary from the populous and large parishes of Nursling and Rownhams and Wellow to very small parishes such as East Dean, East Tytherley and Melchet Park and Plaitford. All have distinctive qualities and all help engage local residents in community commitment and service. The size of population of the parish does not appear to me to be an important factor in determining the success and level of activity of a parish council. Much more depends on quality of individuals prepared to become involved and the local sense of community.

For statutory reasons, Boundary Commissions be they the Local Government or Parliamentary Boundary Commissions, are regularly changing electoral boundaries based on population statistics more than community or identity. After a while that churn means residents can lose all sense of local identity and community and belonging. Fortunately the historical Parish identity still persists and helps maintain a very important sense of community identity and continuity. I would urge you not to disrupt it.

I am particularly concerned by suggestions that the historic parish of Romsey Extra be submerged into the equally historic community of Romsey Town. A combined Romsey Town and Romsey Extra would become very large and more remote from distinctive communities within the area. If anything there is a case for creating smaller neighbourhood councils within Romsey Town to recognise the distinct communities within the town.

Undoubtedly the Parish Council of Romsey Extra is much more proactive in offering services to its community than the Town Council. From my reading of the Town Council accounts other than the Town Hall (which gets a huge subsidy) and the Allotments (which more or less pay for themselves) it is difficult to see what the Town Council actually does in providing a service to the community. It gives no grants to youth or elderly. It offers no recreation grounds or play areas all of which are funded by Test Valley Borough Council. It seems confined to commenting on planning applications.

By contrast the Romsey Extra Parish Council- again from a study of its accounts spends much less on administrative costs and salaries but gives grants to Youth and elderly groups. It supports the Woodley Village Hall, the St Swithuns Church, the Football Club and has actively helped the new Abbotswood estate become a community. It has installed defibrillators, litter bins and speed limit reminder signs. It has planted 2000 bulbs to enhance the environment . I fear if swallowed up by the Town Council this would all be lost in a bureaucratic town council.

Parish Councils have an important role to play. They are a valued feature of Test Valley as a rural community and my advice to the Borough Council is to cherish them and not try to make them uniform administrative units but value their diversity and idiosyncrasies.

54.4. Cllr Ian Hibberd – Test Valley Borough Councillor (Romsey Extra ward)

I write in favour of retaining the Romsey Extra Parish Council, and my reasoning is as follows :-

The Romsey Extra Parish, (R.E.P.C) has existed for over 800 years, and possibly much longer. Age itself is not necessarily a reason to continue, but, the current R.E.P.C. Council, which was formed in 1894, after taking over from the Abbey Church, has many qualities that benefit the communities it serves, that should be retained and preserved.

They are a “Quality Parish Council” and have a “rural Topology focus” which the Town Council do not share, and are thoroughly different in character and outlook from them.

R.E.P.C, has the 6th largest number of Electors in Test Valley, and the views and aspirations expressed by them, in general are on rural / Urban focus issues, and do not reflect similar views as the Townspeople.

R.E.P.C, Carry out ALL their statutory responsibilities fully and efficiently.

They have an excellent Clerk and a committed Chairman and Members

They have a fully up to date Business plan, and are financially competent.

They are fully independent at this time, and wish to stay that way.

In my opinion, to break up this quality efficient Council, would serve no useful service to the community whatsoever, and would be a thoroughly retrograde step if carried out.

I trust you will take my very valid reasons for preserving this organisation in to account.

54.5. Cllr Alison Johnston – Test Valley Borough Councillor (Romsey Extra ward)

I am writing in response to the community governance review being undertaken by Test Valley Borough Council. I am writing in my capacity as past Chairman, Vice Chairman and councillor of Romsey Extra parish council from 2003 - 2015 and as the current councillor for the Romsey Extra ward.

I strongly support the proposal that Romsey Extra parish council is retained to continue the excellent work undertaken to date. I do not believe that either distributing the parish roughly in line with the new borough council ward boundaries or bringing the parish under the governance of a newly formed Town council would be in the best interest of the residents of Romsey Extra for the following reasons:-

- In southern test valley, Romsey Extra alone has seen the largest proportion of new housing developments, currently representing all stages of the planning cycle from the 800 built and occupied at Abbotswood, to work in progress with Oxlease and other strip developments along Cupernham lane , and those in the first stages of implementation, e.g. Ganger and Whitenap.
 - New developments on this scale bring different challenges that require a single focus through a dedicated parish council such as :-
 - Ensuring that the new communities are well designed and remain sustainable through active promotion of the social , environmental and economic well-being of these new settlements so they remain attractive places where people will want to continue to live. An example here is the role the parish council plays with the development and ongoing support for communities facilities and events e.g. Woodley Village Hall , Abbotswood Community Centre and the emerging new sports facilities at Ganger .
 - To alleviate pressures on services and infrastructure where these pressures cannot be dealt with within existing towns and ensure that by working with local partners that infrastructure and service provision keeps pace with growth. For example ,working directly with bus companies and residents to ensure new routes are well placed and supported , continue to promote and support more safe walking/cycling routes ,and maintaining close relationships with local schools that are directly impacted.
 - Managing that the environmental impact of growth . A recent example of this is protecting Fishlake Nature Reserve from recreational pressure and contamination from building works.
 - Ensuring that new communities are integrated within existing communities and not marginalised or isolated, particularly the more vulnerable. Romsey Extra parish council can prioritise any discretionary spending to ensure these needs are met.
- My second point concerns the rural nature of Romsey Extra which introduces special characteristics that are not shared with towns and require special material considerations around resources to ensure effective decision making.
 - Where urban people take things for granted, mobile coverage, post offices, shops, access to cheap groceries, street lights :these are not available or look very different for rural communities .
 - Generally poor public transport links

- Challenges faced by the rural economy in terms of investment, distance , scarcity and demography.
- Lastly, visual impact, noise, ecology are all different planning considerations within a rural environment.

For these main reasons, I would support the proposal that Romsey Extra is retained as a separate parish council thereby ensuring continuity of governance, stability and relevant decision making for newly emerging, outlying and rural communities surrounding Romsey.

54.6. Cllr Teresa Hibberd – Romsey Extra Parish Councillor

I am writing to you as a resident of Romsey Extra and as a Parish Councillor since 2003 and I am opposed to the current review to align the new boundaries with the Borough Councillors new warded areas. If the new proposals are carried out this would mean there will be many rural parts of the parish council that will have to be adopted by other parish councils surrounding Romsey Extra. As I understand it the current position is that these other councils are unwilling to take on these areas.

I have lived in Romsey Extra all my life and I understand that the Parish Council has been in existence for over 1000 years. The current boundaries have been in existence since 1894 and have not changed since. This clearly means that the current status quo has worked over the years so why change it.

The Parish Council works diligently; we have monthly meetings and address many different concerns from our electorate. We put out informative newsletters on a regular basis and receive feedback from the electorate. We engage with local groups, schools and other bodies. We have an up to date Business Plan. We take part in many different local events in the Parish and we are well respected in the area. We have a very competent Parish Clerk who keeps us up to date on all issues arising.

If this parish council were to be abolished you would lose several councillors with a wealth of knowledge of the Romsey Extra area. If there were to be a new council based around the centre of Romsey we feel that the residents in the rural parts would miss out as the current town councillors only represent the urban part of Romsey.

I therefore strongly think that Romsey Extra has paid a great part in local government historically and will do so in the future and I recommend that you keep the current boundaries as they are. Parish councils are the eyes and ears on the ground and are an important factor in Test Valley and Hampshire.

54.7. Cllr Mark Cooper - Hampshire County Councillor (Romsey Town division), Test Valley Borough Councillor (Tadburn ward), Romsey Town Councillor (Tadburn ward)

See item 55.2.

54.8. Cllr John Parker - Romsey Town Councillor (Tadburn ward)

See item 55.3.

54.9. Liberal Democrats – Romsey Branch

See item 55.4.

54.10. Jennifer Adams – Chairman of the Romsey and District Society

See item 55.5.

54.11. Jo Cottrell –Headteacher of Halterworth Primary School

I am contacting you as Headteacher of Halterworth Primary School to express our shared concern about the proposed boundary changes to the Parish Councils and impact of this on our much valued relationship with The Romsey Extra parish Council.

To date we have been supported by the council with the purchase of Graphic Novels, and an outdoor games table for the children of this school. But beyond that Councillors make time to have a 'presence' at our school events and ensure that we are fully informed about community developments. The Chairman Chris Wesson takes a keen interest in the school and that is very much valued and recognised by staff and governors.

I am concerned that a potential loss of involvement for our school will mean that areas of Romsey which are being extensively developed will continue to attract all the investment and enhancement. Halterworth is the highest performing primary school in the area, we are a Teaching School and support other schools to improve standards and learning and yet we continually fail to attract community fund monies. In fact our catchment area has been reduced (an oversubscribed primary school!) to redirect finance to the North Baddesley schools. Without Parish Councillors championing our cause I do feel very concerned that this school will be overlooked and ignored by the revised and amalgamated Parish.

I would be seeking absolute reassurance that this area would continue to have the support and civic involvement that it currently does and that any reserves and Parish finance is focused on the current extra parish.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can assist further.

54.12. Joel Worrall – Headmaster of Stroud School

In my role as Headmaster at Stroud School I have had regular interaction with the Romsey Extra Parish Council, specifically Counsellor Wesson who is a regular supporter of school events and has willingly offered his time for various initiatives within the school. We have worked together to provide financial support to other groups in the parish, recently St. Swithuns church and I have been able to attend a small number of parish council meetings.

I have found the structure of the council to be efficiently run and my experience of the meetings was of a group of individuals who had both a very good understanding of the parish but also the desire to improve it. I was impressed to see for example, that the whole group had arranged a 'tour' of the parish to identify areas for focus or to take note of recent projects/changes. It has been my experience that the Parish funds have put to good use, and I note this point as a member of the parish who has not requested financial support.

I note that there is likely to be close to a 50% rise in the population of the parish in the next two years – this will be significant and I imagine there will need to be some growth of the council to accommodate the extra without decreasing the service it provides. I can see the 'ring' nature of the RE parish and the RT parish, but given the population numbers involved I would suggest that we would lose much of the personal approach if the two were to be combined. It is difficult to see in the map documents whether Stroud School would be impacted by the proposed changes but I would be happy to maintain the existing relationship we have developed.

54.13. Heather McIlroy – Executive Headteacher of The Mountbatten School

I write in connection with the current consultation on Parish Boundary changes in the Test Valley area.

I am aware that there is some question as to whether the Romsey Town and Romsey Extra parishes should be amalgamated, and I would like to make The Mountbatten School's position on the subject known.

I believe it is firmly in the interests of the school for Romsey Extra Parish to remain separate from Romsey Town. Over the years, Romsey Extra Parish Council have been very supportive of the school, sponsoring various awards and trips and generally assisting in any way they can.

The amalgamation of the two parishes would stretch the resources of both, enabling less time to be given to the many charitable causes and events each supports, as well as the many other responsibilities they hold. There is significant building development planned within the Romsey Extra area, I do not believe this is the time to allow Romsey Extra Parish to be 'swallowed up' by Romsey Town.

I do hope that you will take our views into consideration during the consultation process.

54.14. Romsey Extra resident

I am writing as part of the initial consultation TVBC is carrying out in regard to current and future parish arrangements.

To introduce myself I am [a long term resident of Romsey Extra].

I understand the need for all organisations, particularly those responsible for spending taxpayers money wisely, to carry out regular reviews of their structures to ensure they are efficient and deliver effectively.

As I understand matters the Romsey Extra Parish (REP), in keeping with all other parishes, receives funding from the District Council as part of the precept arrangements. As there is currently a good deal of growth in terms of new housing in the Romsey Extra area the population has, and will continue to grow in the near future. This growth in population will naturally lead to a growth in the amount REP will seek from the District Council.

In these times of austerity, to the outsider this makes REP an attractive target for boundary changes based simply on the amount of money that might be available.

Some might say this is a cynical view, but having worked [in the public sector for a number of years] I believe it is a matter that should not be overlooked in any consultation.

In my view any changes to parish boundaries should only be made if they bring about more effective and efficient services.

I would oppose any changes to the current REP boundaries, particularly if they meant more of the area being taken into the Romsey Town Council area.

I look forward to reading the recommendations due for publication in May this year.

54.15. Romsey Extra resident

I am concerned to note that changes are being considered, with regard to the current Romsey Extra Parish Council configuration.

We have an established team of representatives within the parish council. They understand the local communities needs. This is due to personal involvement at all levels and working hard (within the financial restraints), for the good of the community and our location.

Romsey Extra continues to have a population explosion, due to major house building programs. This one issue alone, brings a great increase, to the work load of our Parish Council. Because of their experience and local contacts, they are best placed to manage the additional demands of the increased population, in an effective manner.

Irrespective of there also being many other issues to consider. What we currently have, while never perfect, is not broken. It will be very challenging, going forward. The current team, is best placed to match, if not exceed, the expectations of the Romsey Extra community.

I would request that the status quo, remains as such.

54.16. Romsey Extra resident

Having read Test Valley Borough Council's request for comments on possible local boundary changes, including the alteration of Parish boundaries or even the abolition of some Parish Councils, I wish to comment as follows:

As the Government is intent on promoting localism and involving the community as a whole in local matters, it is not appropriate to do away with Romsey Extra Parish Council, our most local of Councils. Personally it is something I would strongly object to.

Having lived in Halterworth, Romsey for [a number of years] I have come to value the input of Romsey Extra Parish Councillors in dealing with problems which, in some cases, cause conflicts of interest when put before Town or Borough Councillors.

Retaining the Parish Council provides residents with a local tier of consultation and information which would otherwise be missing. I believe that most residents are aware of the identity of their Parish Councillors and feel relaxed about contacting them, but feel distanced from Borough or Town Councillors, especially when, as I do, they live in a semi rural area.

Also a Parish Council, with its wealth of local knowledge, can communicate to higher tiers of Government how a community feels about an issue and as such has the power to change opinion to reflect the wishes of the local community.

Whilst I appreciate the reasoning behind some of the boundary changes and the need for rationalisation, I am totally opposed to the abolishing of Romsey Extra Parish Council.

54.17. Romsey Extra residents

We write as joint owners of [redacted] which is within the Romsey Extra Parish. We do not support the merging of the Parish with the Romsey Town parishes as Romsey Extra has a quite separate character and provides the essential green/rural space between the Urban areas to the north and south. To lose our ward councillors would remove any representation of the Parish's interests and whatever the "new" Ward councillors say they will be influenced

by the greater number of Urban voters and will only give a passing thought to the old Parish of Romsey Extra.

All in all a very retrograde step and another silencing of the rural voter

Please keep us informed as to the progress of the Review and acknowledge receipt of our views.

54.18. Romsey Extra resident

I am totally against taking away our democratic rights by removing the Romsey Extra Parish Council. This would take away our voice regarding local matters. Years ago any decision made regarding the local area was made by the Lord of the Manor without any thought of the consequences to the local residents. It appears that you wish to reinstate this practice. If the Parish Extra Council was no longer in existence it would allow the Romsey Council to make any adverse decisions re our area without any opposition at all. That would obviously be beneficial to the Romsey Town Council however would not be beneficial to the local people in Romsey Extra whom it would affect.

The Romsey Extra Parish has special relationships with the local schools and Churches giving talks and in some instances financial assistance for various projects. Would this practice continue? No I very much doubt it would.

The Romsey Extra Parish also gives views and represents the locals regarding all planning applications within our area.

The Romsey Extra Parish supports many projects - various clubs and societies. It also sponsors various events and prizes.

We have a defibrillators within our area due to the Romsey Extra Parish Council. The Parish Extra has a relationship with Southern Ambulances.

The Romsey Extra Parish helps with footpaths and keeping the local area clean and tidy.

The Romsey Extra Parish, I believe, has been in existence since the 10th century. Why get rid of it now? It has served a very useful purpose for centuries representing the views of the people within its boundaries. It has a purpose which is very important, especially in these modern times. The persons sitting on this Council do an extremely good job.

It appears that our Democracy is no longer considered a right for the local people. This has been proven by recent events where trees has been felled and Romsey Council issued a letter stating that it did not have to consult with the local residents but were informing us out of consideration. Excuse me but may I remind you that you are elected as Councillors to act as the voice of your constituents and make decision accordingly, not to make decisions that suit yourselves and not bother to consult the local residents for their views. The local people should always be consulted about matters that will affect them. This is something that Romsey Extra Parish do on a regular basis however unfortunately something that Romsey Town Council fail so to do.

54.19. Romsey Extra resident

We have lived in Romsey Extra parish for over 20 years, and over that time the Parish Council has served and supported us well. Therefore we do not see that there is any need for change to the current arrangements. The councillors take an interest in local

organisations and local matters relevant to us. They are all local people who are familiar with the parish, its geography and its people.

Romsey Extra has existed for over a thousand years, since the days of Alfred the Great. This is not to be taken lightly by sweeping away such a historic entity.

Looking at the parish council statistics, the position in the 31/10/17 electoral register was that Romsey Extra parish had the sixth largest number of electors in Test Valley; by 2022 that is projected to rise to the fourth largest number of electors, only exceeded by Andover, Romsey Town and North Baddesley. There is therefore no reason for it not to remain as an independent parish.

For those of us who live outside the centre of Romsey, we do not want to see administration and services further centralised to the town centre. When visiting the town centre, we talk about 'going into Romsey'; we do not see ourselves as already in the town.

Regarding the matter of warding: this may be a good idea where a parish has an even distribution of housing and projected developments. However, in a parish like Romsey Extra, one quarter comprises the estate of Broadlands with approximately 100 dwellings on its land; the north-eastern and south-eastern parts of the parish have been earmarked for considerable new housing developments, whilst other parts are predominantly rural. To subdivide into wards would create a situation of parish councillors infighting for funding between areas, instead of the mutual agreement which currently takes place.

54.20. Romsey Extra resident

Parish Councils are an essential tier to Local Government, both providing information and observations to District and County Councils and supporting local events and organisations within their areas. To carry out these functions successfully, they need to reflect and represent the local environment, whatever that may be, industrial, urban, or rural. Romsey Extra is mainly rural, and different in character from the urban environment of Romsey Town, and to best serve the interests of the respective communities, different councils are needed.

Around Romsey Extra are a number of adjacent parishes, and some development may have taken place since the last boundary changes resulting in some dwellings not being represented by the most local parish council.

My view is that Romsey Town and Romsey Extra should continue to exist as separate councils to best represent their respective areas, but some minor boundary changes with adjoining parishes to be considered removing any existing anomalies for isolated developments.

54.21. Romsey Extra resident

I live in Romsey extra and understand that a consideration is being made regarding the boundaries for the parish council. Romsey extra is covered by Romsey Extra parish council at present and I am concerned if the boundaries are to be changed that we may somehow fall under Romsey town parish council which in the past has never shown any understanding of what Countryside and the rural aspects of Romsey extra are or how they should be managed. Romsey is defined as where town meets country but the countryside element must remand for this to be correct and my fear is that the countryside around Romsey including Romsey extra is going to be totally eroded. I therefore wish to see Romsey extra

still having Romsey extra parish council who speak and act on behalf of the residents in Romsey Extra.

Romsey extra should not lose its voice.

54.22. Romsey Extra resident

The terms of reference state the review will seek to ensure that governance

a) reflects the identities and interests of the community in Romsey Extra;

b) Is effective and convenient.

I submit that Romsey Extra Parish Council as it is now constituted does both a) and b) well. I see no reason to make any fundamental change other than perhaps minor changes in parts of the boundary.

Romsey Extra has a large rural area with a small population and more urban areas.

Because Romsey Extra Parish Council is not warded it can and does fairly represent the whole of the parish- both the large rural area of the parish with a small population and the more urban areas.

Your own analysis of population indicates that at 2018 Romsey Extra is one of the biggest parishes. By 2020 it will be the third biggest. I submit that Romsey Extra Parish Council has shown it is effective in representing the needs of the growing population and it is appropriate that such a large population has a council to reflect its needs.

In short Romsey Extra is not broken so there is no need to fix it.

54.23. Romsey Extra resident

Thank you for the opportunity to take part in the consultation section of this review process. I have seen the terms of reference produced by Test Valley Borough Council. As my home [is in the Romsey Extra parish] I believe that I am justified in seeking to contribute to the debate about its future.

This letter is to express my belief that the Parish of Romsey Extra should remain as it is. This is not withstanding small 'tidying up' or 'housekeeping' changes and alterations that make common sense or are necessary. The reasons for supporting the status quo are founded on the following: history and tradition, population, the work of the Parish and the fact that it works.

History and tradition are so often disdained in these times of immediacy and what seems like a good idea at the time. We have seen perfectly good and sensible customs, names and traditions swept away in a fashion for modernisation, only to find that later after painful experience, these existed in the form they did because they worked. That accounted for their survival. Remember how we laughed when millions were spent changing The Post Office to Consignia - a name that meant nothing to anyone. It returned to being the Post Office!

Rural Romsey Extra has been a part of life here since Saxon times. It is mentioned on numerous occasions in many places over many centuries. It is not something dreamt up by previous reviews and boundary changes. It is not South Humberside, Tyne and Wear or Rutland. It is an historic, centuries old part of local administration. It is not, and never has been, part of the town of Romsey. It has its own rural character and as such should be differentiated from an urban area.

Population is important to the nature of a Parish. When Abbotswood, Whitenap and Ganger Farm are completed Romsey Extra will have a population similar to other parishes in the area. There is talk of merging Romsey Infra with Romsey Extra.

I imagine that this would produce a Parish of approximately 20,000 people. It would be difficult for any Parish Council looking after 20,000 Parishioners both to engender a feeling of community identity, community interest and shared values, or, to identify and respond swiftly to local issues. All of these are crucial if today's families are to have any cohesion with their community.

The Parish Council of Romsey Extra performs a range of activities in the community. It is far more than merely an administrative body - a criticism often aimed at Romsey Town Council. It acts in a way that supports and reflects the interests of a wide ranging community of people who choose to live in a rural rather than a town environment and whose hamlets would lose that rural identity if taken over by a town.

As referred to above, in the past, perfectly good systems have disappeared on the whim of some who have political representation but whose agenda could be very different to that of the electorate. Therefore it must be down to us all to look hard at what is best, and scrutinise why some want to make changes. Is something broken and does it need fixing? Romsey Extra has served us well for centuries. It may appear a little quirky on the map - our 'doughnut' - but it has worked in the past, it works now, so why should it not serve us well into the future?

The driver of any proposed changes may be the recent Ward boundary changes? If so, we should remember that these may change again in ten to fifteen years. It could be a mistake to destroy 1000 years of history for such a transient and relatively short term alteration.

Change has its place, but not without due thought, care and consideration for the right reasoning. It is all too easy for those with the loudest voice and an interest in short term political gain to bully the rest of us, with the result that the value of something important is lost because of the supposed cost of something rather less important. It is comforting to know that the majority of Romsey Town Councillors see the status quo remaining, as they made clear when they voted not to make a representation to the first part of the consultation process.

Within the terms of reference for this review it was stated that the key criteria which will be focused upon are, that governance reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area, and that it is effective and convenient. I hope my comments have shown that Romsey Extra Parish has a clear identity already. Therefore, remaining the same is in the best interests of the community. Romsey Extra is already effective in working for and supporting its parishioners successfully and it will continue to be so.

I hope I have conveyed my points clearly. Please accept my thanks once again for the opportunity to be consulted.

54.24. Romsey residents

See items 55.6 – 55.8.

One additional response was received from a Romsey Extra resident after the close of the consultation period.

55. Romsey

55.1. Romsey Town Council

Council listened very carefully to all views including those of Romsey Extra Parish Council and other members of the public. You will see from the minutes that Romsey Town Council will not be submitting any views at this stage of the Community Governance Review as there was not a clear agreement.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th January 2018 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Romsey

RESOLUTION NO. 18/47

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. J. Parker and **SECONDED** by Cllr. J. Burgess that Romsey Town should be expanded, incorporating parts of Romsey Extra, so that the boundaries of the three wards of Romsey Town should be the same as the new TVBC wards of Abbey, Cupernham and Tadburn

RECORDED VOTE

FOR

Cllr. J. Burgess
Cllr. J. Burnage
Cllr. M. Cooper
Cllr. P. Hurst
Cllr. J. Parker

AGAINST

Cllr. D. Baverstock
Cllr. M. Curtis
Cllr. M. Greggains
Cllr. I. Hibberd
Cllr. N. Michell
Cllr. N. Nicholson

NO ABSTENTIONS

MOTION NOT CARRIED

RESOLUTION NO. 18/48

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. N. Nicholson and **SECONDED** by Cllr. M. Curtis to retain the “status quo” between Romsey Town Council and Romsey Extra Parish Council

RECORDED VOTE

FOR

Cllr. M. Curtis
Cllr. M. Greggains
Cllr. I. Hibberd
Cllr. N. Michell
Cllr. N. Nicholson

AGAINST

Cllr. D. Baverstock
Cllr. J. Burgess
Cllr. J. Burnage
Cllr. M. Cooper
Cllr. P. Hurst
Cllr. J. Parker

NO ABSTENTIONS

MOTION NOT CARRIED

55.2. Cllr Mark Cooper – Hampshire County Councillor (Romsey Town division), Test Valley Borough Councillor (Tadburn ward), Romsey Town Councillor (Tadburn ward)

This is my personal submission to TVBC's Community Governance Review and is written in the context of 32 years continuous service to Romsey Town Council and Test Valley Borough Council and 12 years as Romsey Division's County Councillor. I have also served as Town Mayor in 1991, 2007 and 2012. I have lived in Romsey Extra for 35 years

The recommendation by the Boundary Commission that the Town Council Ward boundaries should be coterminous with the new Borough Ward boundaries of Abbey, Tadburn and Cupernham should be followed.

The most significant impact on the Town Council, if it was to follow this advice, would be an enlargement of its Council Tax base from c.5,500 to 8,832. (Campion, Hunters, Ganger = 665 dwellings; Ganger Farm = 250; Abbotswood, 800; Oxlease 64; land opp. Baroona 73; other permissions Cup. Ln = 70; old Whitenap 110; and new Whitenap, 1,300 = 3,332 band D equivalents).

The Town Council's precept is currently £250,597. At the current Band D, (£44) an enlarged Romsey Town would generate a precept of £388,000. Romsey Town Councillors would be able to fix the Town Hall, subsidise young people's activity and do something really useful for the town... or they could reduce the Band D rate to c.£28.

The next consideration is the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Every housing planning application comes with CIL, 15% of which is passed to the Parish/Town Council. All the new housing in and around Romsey impacts on Romsey as a whole, especially as most of the new residents will see Romsey Town as their local service centre for retail and recreation. Romsey Town derives very little CIL money because there are very few new dwellings being constructed within the current three Town Council Wards.

All the development on non-strategic sites in Romsey Extra also generates 15% CIL. This is only spent within the Parish and my observation is that Romsey Extra Parish Council finds it very difficult to actually find anything really useful on which to spend its CIL derived income. The real impact of all the new residents is on the town as a whole but none of the Parish portion of the CIL gets spent on the town as a whole. This could be seen as a dis-service to the existing Romsey Town residents as they see their local assets being used by new residents who have not made any contribution to those assets.

The next factor is important, too. It is 'perception'.

Ask anyone who lives in Abbotswood or Campion Drive or Hunters Crescent where they live. The answer is always 'Romsey'. It is never, ever, 'Romsey Extra'. I think we owe it to the current residents of Romsey to make sure the new residents pay their fair share of the Town Council's costs and we owe the new residents the simple right of being able to say that they live in Romsey, without it being a lie.

55.3. Cllr John Parker – Romsey Town Councillor (Tadburn ward)

MY BACKGROUND

I am John Parker. I am a resident of Romsey Extra, having lived there with my family for around 40 years.

I am currently a member of Romsey Town Council. I am also the immediate past Romsey Town Mayor. I have been a town councillor for almost three years. Prior to that I was a parish councillor on Romsey Extra Parish Council for 29 years and served five terms as Chairman. I also served as the Test Valley Borough Councillor for Romsey Extra for four years.

I am an active member of a number of Romsey-related organisations including: Romsey Future, Romsey Neighbourhood Plan, Romsey District Neighbourhood Watch Association, Romsey Community Emergency Planning Group and Romsey Twinning. I am also one of the moderators of the Romsey News and Information Facebook group which has over 7,000 members.

KEY DRIVERS FOR THE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

I understand that unlike the boundary reviews at parliamentary, county and borough level this review does not have concern itself with electoral equality but is directed to ensure that the structure of parish governance:

- Reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area
- Is effective and convenient

OBSERVATIONS

My observations are that:

Identity

- Residents of the area identify as being from Romsey in the broadest sense and only rarely from either the Romsey Town Parish or the Romsey Extra Parish.
- A large proportion of the local residents find it difficult to draw the dividing line between the two parishes and, already, there are anomalies such as part of the Woodley area being in the Town and part in Extra and similarly the split in the Whitenap area.
- While there are some who have a strong attachment to the historic nature of the division into Extra and Town, Romsey Town's boundaries have been gradually moved out to encompass parts of Romsey Extra so as to bring the built area into Romsey Town. Indeed it is worth remembering that Romsey Extra once started at the Holbrook stream (by Boots) and all of The Hundred was in Romsey Extra. History notwithstanding Romsey has survived that boundary change and many minor ones since.

Interests

- Community interest groups in the Romsey area do not differentiate between Romsey Town and Romsey Extra. This is true of organisations with which I am involved such as Romsey Twinning and Neighbourhood Watch but also the Church, the Scouts, the Rotary clubs, Romsey Young Carers and so on. For them Romsey means greater Romsey with no differentiation as to which side of Braishfield Road or Whitenap Lane you live. Indeed when it comes to making grant applications they are often surprised to be asked how many of their residents live in which of the two parishes and the distinction needs to be explained.
- Current initiatives such as Romsey Future, Romsey Neighbourhood Plan and Romsey Community Emergency Plan have all decided that the interests of Romsey residents is best served by setting the boundaries of these groups to incorporate both Romsey Town and Romsey Extra.

Effectiveness

- Romsey Extra completely surrounds Romsey Town. As a consequence the allocation of land for housing development predominantly falls in Romsey Extra but as the new residents, rightly, see Romsey Town as their centre the impact also falls on Romsey Town.
- The two councils find it essential to work together on planning matters whether it is in opposition to specific planning applications such as the proposal to build a Tesco super store on Broadlands or on shaping the next local plan. As such it was an obvious decision to create a joint committee of the two councils to seek to establish a Romsey Neighbourhood Plan with the boundary set on the outer boundary of Romsey Extra. Taking either area in isolation makes no sense.
- Each new resident in Romsey Extra puts additional pressures on the Town but the extra income generated in terms of Council Tax or CIL does not contribute to the Town. This creates a financial inequality and financial pressures.
- Were the built areas of Romsey Extra and Romsey Town managed by the same parish council there could well be gains in effectiveness as the council would be more representative of Romsey, the public would have greater clarity and would have a single point of contact at the Town Hall. It would create a stronger and more effective voice for Romsey at all levels of government.
- It is likely that combining the administrations of the two parishes could well result in increased efficiency, delivering a better level of service and, potentially, some cost savings.

Convenience

- The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has made proposals to abolish Romsey Extra as a ward of TVBC and to allocate its area to surrounding wards. Specifically it has proposed that: **Abbey ward** be extended to include Broadlands, **Tadburn ward** should include all of Whitenap, Halterworth and Highwood and **Cupernham ward** should include all of Woodley, Abbotswood and the Campion Drive area.
- Consequently, the existing confusion over boundaries and responsibilities stands to increase given that new TVBC wards would be partly in Romsey Town and partly in Romsey Extra albeit having the same name as the Romsey Town wards.
- From an electoral perspective the plethora of small new parish wards proposed would place an increased workload on Test Valley Borough's Electoral Services.
- Given that the parish councils are elected every 4 years at the same time as the Borough Council the Boundary Commission changes would create immense

challenges for the political parties. They would need to ensure that the correct literature promoting the relevant candidates is delivered to the right area and that electoral expenses are correctly apportioned and reported. Coterminous parish and Borough wards would make much more sense.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is my recommendation that Romsey Town should be expanded again to incorporate all those parts of Romsey Extra that fall in the new TVBC wards of Abbey, Cupernham and Tadburn. This would bring all of the main built-up areas of Romsey and the strategic development areas under Romsey Town Council.

I recommend that Romsey Town should still be divided into three wards: Abbey, Cupernham and Tadburn and that these should be coterminous with the new Test Valley wards.

I recommend that the three wards should each be represented by the same number of councillors whether that is five from each ward as now or a greater number is a matter for further discussion.

Finally, there remains the question of what happens to the balance of Romsey Extra. That is a matter for Romsey Extra Parish Council and neighbouring parishes to discuss and for Test Valley Borough Council to decide. However, it would seem to me that the most effective solution would be to absorb the remaining parts into the neighbouring parishes following the boundaries proposed by the Boundary Commission for the dispersal of the Test Valley ward of Romsey Extra to the surrounding wards.

This would inevitably see the demise of Romsey Extra as a parish and a parish council. Perhaps some of the history could be preserved by renaming Romsey Town Council as the Town Council of Romsey and Romsey Extra and the Mayor as the Town Mayor of Romsey and Romsey Extra.

55.4. Liberal Democrats – Romsey Branch

At its meeting on 15th January 2018, the Romsey Branch of the Liberal Democrats discussed Test Valley's Community Governance Review.

The Branch agreed that an enlarged Romsey Town Council based on the three new Borough Wards of Romsey Abbey, Romsey Cupernham and Romsey Tadburn would be the most rational solution, with the residual components of Romsey Extra Parish shared amongst the surrounding rural parishes.

1. Historically the Town Council has expanded its area in line with the town's peripheral development and this is another step in the same historical trend.
2. The built area areas contiguous with the town have a shared community interest and look to the town for the provision of a range of services.
3. The residents of Ganger Farm, Abbotswood, Campion Drive, Whitenap etc identify with the town of Romsey rather than the surrounding rural areas.
4. Having Town Council boundaries coterminous with Borough Ward boundaries will be better understood by residents.
5. New development on the urban edge of Romsey brings additional pressure on services within the whole town which CIL funding could and should help to address.
6. Although not the body making changes to Parish boundaries, the Boundary Commission's recommendation that there could be a new Town Council based on the three new Borough Wards should not be lightly disregarded.

55.5. Jennifer Adams – Chairman of the Romsey and District Society

We understand that a review is taking place to consider whether it would be appropriate to change the existing parish boundaries for Romsey which are currently made up of Romsey Town and Romsey extra.

Both parishes currently provide a good service in support of their respective communities. We can see that recent changes in the boundaries for both borough and county elections has thrown up some anomalies which need to be addressed and in principle it seems sensible to look at rationalising this position.

In addition the majority of development that is likely to take place will do so in Romsey extra but will place pressure on Romsey Town.

For these reasons we would like you to consider merging the two parishes so that the needs of both areas can be considered together but need to understand how this would work in practice as we would not wish the areas currently covered by Romsey extra to receive a diminished service if such a merger took place.

55.6. Romsey resident

Further to the notification in the Romsey Advertiser 24th November regarding the local parish boundary review I submit my thoughts upon the Romsey area.

Romsey Extra Parish Council (RE) is an historical anomaly that should be absorbed into Romsey Town Council (RTC).

- i. Most residents of both parishes do not realise that there is such a divide.
- ii. RTC has a Civic function that RE taps into but with no contribution.
- iii. There is no discernible centre or community to RE and totally relies upon RTC.
- iv. Vast majority of recent and proposed development is in the RE area. This development greatly affects RTC but it does not benefit.
- v. Major facilities such as the Sports Centre, Rapids, Youth in Romsey, Skate Park, Mountbatten School, Woodley Cemetery, Crematorium and the new Ganger Farm Sports facilities are all in RE.
- vi. Infrastructure such as the sewerage works are in RE.
- vii. There were not any shops in RE, until the new Abbotswood development CO-OP.
- viii. There are four pubs in RE but see themselves reliant upon RTC area trade. Three of them only 100 yards from boundary.
- ix. Of the seven RE councillors three live in RTC.
- x. Of the fifteen RTC councillors five live in RE and two in parishes adjacent to RE.
- xi. There are two dual councillors who both live in RTC.
- xii. This would reduce costs and simplify procedures for all residents.
- xiii. Cil and 106 monies would be able to be spent for the benefit for all the residents of “greater” Romsey.
- xiv. There is no logical argument for carving off chunks to neighbouring parishes such as North Baddesley or Nursling and Rownhams.
- xv. This sits within the Central Government guidelines to remove “donut” councils.

55.7. Romsey resident

I am in favour of expanding Romsey Town Council to include Romsey Extra. The reason is that I believe that most of the large new housing developments are currently in Romsey Extra but are completely reliant on the community facilities in Romsey town centre. However the funding from developers currently does not go to Romsey Town Council.

This situation has arisen because of a historical anomaly and virtually all residents of Romsey Extra are unaware that they live in Romsey Extra and of the implications of this.

55.8. Romsey resident

I wish to re-submit my personal views on the above. I sent them in [redacted] some weeks ago after she invited me to submit my comments.

- i. Merge Romsey Infra with Romsey Extra.
- ii. Change the boundary of R E at the junction of Ampfield/Braishfield at G R 3785:2408. North to the Fairborne Stream. Follow the Fairborne encompassing Timsbury Lake to the junction of Jinny Lane/Yokesford Hill. Follow the existing boundary to the A3057, G R 3525:2363. Follow the A3057 south the junction of the B 3084 and then to the junction of Old Salisbury Lane. Follow Old Salisbury lane to the junction of Danes Road. South to the Shootash X Roads. A27 to Gardeners Lane.
- iii. Keep the existing boundary to the south and east of R E back to G R 3785:2408. This is above the Saxon boundary bank alongside the former line Ampfield F P 14.

56. Valley Park

56.1. Valley Park Parish Council

I write to advise you that Valley Park Parish Council seeks that no changes are made to the existing Valley Park Parish Council. The Parish considers that it is a competent successful council and provides excellent value for Council Tax payers.

56.2. North Baddesley Parish Council

See item 53.1.

56.3. Cllr Julia Adey – Valley Park Parish Councillor

I write to request that no changes are made to the existing Valley Park Parish Council. As a Parish we consider that it is a competent successful council and provides excellent value for Council Tax payers.

56.4. Cllr Dianne Moran – Valley Park Parish Councillor

I write to advise you that my comments are that of the rest of the Parish Councillors for Valley Park Council.

I write to advise you that Valley Park Parish Council seeks that no changes are made to the existing Valley Park Parish Council. The Parish considers that it is a competent successful council and provides excellent value for Council Tax payers and works extremely hard to help our environment and keeps the area very well cared for also and extremely diligent care for all of its residents that live within our Parish.

56.5. Valley Park resident

VPPC appears to work well and efficiently to my knowledge, I see no clear rationale for changing the parish boundaries.

I would be most grateful if you could let me know the outcome of the Review once completed.

56.6. Valley Park resident

I was reading in my local Valley Park Voice, December edition, where I saw an article concerning CGR

In your article I noticed that boundary changes was mentioned as a possible topic for discussion.

We are very happy with the current boundaries and we feel the local community and area are excellent and I would strongly request that boundaries and parishes are not changed

Many thanks for your time

56.7. Valley Park resident

I write with regard to the Community Governance Review outlined on the Test Valley Borough Council website. In line with the aims of the review, Valley Park Parish Council already reflects the identities and interests of the community in the area and is effective and convenient. It is successful and effective in the way it governs the Parish, it serves the community well and provides good value for money.

As a resident of Valley Park, I would therefore submit that the existing Parish arrangements remain unchanged.

56.8. Valley Park resident

Having been a resident of Valley Park for [a number of years], living in the oldest part of the area, I was somewhat surprised to see that under the proposed new boundaries we will become part of Chilworth.

We have no connection with Chilworth nor use of its facilities unlike Valley Park through which I walk on a daily basis, [and we use a number of facilities within Valley Park parish]. Under the current arrangements we have a say through the ballot box in what happens in our local area, should the proposed changes come into effect whilst our use of the facilities will not change but our democratic rights will have been removed replacing them with rights to vote, comment, in an area to which we have no connection.

Whilst I understand the rationale to create more numerically equal areas this in fact disenfranchise many people and undermine the value of 'local' government.

If numbers are simply the rationale should we not simply remove all boundaries and replace the existing system with proportional representation?

56.9. Valley Park resident

I am writing as a resident of Valley Park to inform Test Valley Borough Council that I would strongly object to any form of the breaking up Valley Park Parish Council. It is a competent council offering value for money and is financially prudent and offers wonderful floral displays that everyone admires.

56.10. Valley Park resident

I live in valley park and am not sure if we need a parish council at all. I believe that currently we have 8 or 10 councillors on the parish council all of which belong to the same political party and all just 'follow the leader' when making decisions. Surely we should either have proportional representation for a parish council or have non political councillors to give a balanced and unbiased view. I would also question their budgeting because they have very little to spend the money on (apart from lining their pockets with 'expenses'!) they quite often just make charitable donations to 'spend' their budget up. I don't think that it is right that someone should give my money to a charity/"worthwhile cause" which I may not agree with.

Overall I think that parish councils should be scrapped.

56.11. Valley Park resident

I am writing with reference to the Parish Boundary Review currently out to consultation. I would like to support the proposed changes to the boundary for Valley Park which, although details road maps do not appear to be available, would appear to reduce the size of the Parish and thereby serve to enhance the community identity.

57. Nursling and Rownhams

57.1. Nursling and Rownhams Parish Council

With respect to the Community Governance Review in the Borough of Test Valley, Nursling & Rownhams Parish Council wish to make the following response.

Nursling & Rownhams Parish Council have no particular desire to accommodate Lee within our Parish Boundary but reserve the right to reconsider our position following responses from adjacent Parish Councils.

58. Chilworth

58.1. North Baddesley Parish Council

See item 53.1.

One additional response was received in relation to Chilworth parish after the close of the consultation period.

59. No specific parish

59.1. Lockerley resident

I am concerned any reduction in the number of Parishes and Wards by whatever means will lead to a reduction in local representation because the ratio between councillors and parishioners will increase. Should this be so it represents a reduction in democratic representation, an erosion of democracy.

In particular, Parish Councils cost Government an almost negligible amount of money so rather than reduce their number the Government should be seeking to maintain or even increase their number thereby improving democratic representation.

59.2. Michelmersh and Timsbury resident

I live in Timsbury.

My view is that parish councils are a complete waste of time and money. They have essentially no powers and are costly to run when one considers the population they cover. Best to abolish them, along with districts and run everything at county level.