

Appendix B

Final recommendations for which there is still no consensus

Original Issue No	Area or Properties Under Review	Parishes Directly Affected
3	Vision 2031 Strategic Site "North-East Bury St Edmunds"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Bury St Edmunds •Great Barton
4	Vision 2031 Strategic Site "Moreton Hall"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Bury St Edmunds •Great Barton •Rushbrooke with Rougham
6	Vision 2031 Strategic Site "Suffolk Business Park"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Bury St Edmunds •Rushbrooke with Rougham
7	Moreton Hall area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Bury St Edmunds •Great Barton •Rushbrooke with Rougham
13	Vision 2031 Strategic Site "North-East Haverhill"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Haverhill •Kedington •Little Wratting
14	Vision 2031 Strategic Site "Hanchett End" (Haverhill Research Park)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Haverhill •Withersfield
19	Assington Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Denston •Stansfield
20	Fornham Lock/ Sheepwash Bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Fornham All Saints •Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve
25	Great and Little Thurlow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Great Thurlow •Little Thurlow

No	Area or Properties Under Review	Parishes Directly Affected	Matter covered by final recommendation
3	Vision 2031 Strategic Site "North-East Bury St Edmunds"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Bury St Edmunds •Great Barton 	Whether or not existing parish governance arrangements should be amended in respect of new homes and/or employment land included in the strategic growth site.

Final Recommendation for Consultation

The "North-East Bury St Edmunds" Vision 2031 growth site be retained in Great Barton Parish within a newly created parish ward. The electoral arrangements of the Parish would be changed as follows:

- a. the growth site would be represented by 2 parish councillors elected to a "South" parish ward with a boundary as shown on consultation map C; and**
- b. the remaining electors in the Parish would be represented by 9 councillors elected to a "North" parish ward.**

The proposed new boundary for consultation, which is shown on consultation map C, reflects the masterplan for the growth site in Vision 2031 as well as existing field lines and strong natural boundaries provided by the existing roads and the railway. Electoral arrangements proposed reflect a five year electorate forecast below.

This recommendation does not increase the overall number of parish councillors for Great Barton from 11. However, if it is adopted, further CGRs may be required between future parish council elections to ensure continued electoral equality between the two parish wards as the new development grows.

The reasons for the recommendation include:

- 1. local preference** (*while there were alternative proposals and views, this option was supported by Great Barton Parish (council and electors) in phase 1. Local electors in Cattishall also felt strongly that that their homes were part of Great Barton Parish*);
- 2. it potentially provides parish boundaries to reflect the identities and interests of local residents (current and future) and offers them more effective and convenient local government** (*Great Barton felt that being an integrated part of their Parish would allow the new community to develop with strong and focused democratic representation and reflect shared interests and needs with the rest of the Parish (which already has several distinct but strongly connected communities i.e. village, Cattishall and East Barton). The Parish Council also felt that this option would provide the new residents the chance to develop their own community identity and local services while development is taking place, and then decide their own future at a later CGR after building is complete*); and
- 3. it reflects, in community identity terms, the barrier created by the railway.**

Five Year Electorate Forecast

The latest estimate of electorate change relating to the "North East Bury St Edmunds" Vision 2031 growth site of 1250 homes is that it will result in 2338 new electors when fully developed. Until development actually starts, it is very hard to make a reliable five year estimate to December 2020. An assumption that no more than 150 homes might be occupied by that point, would result in an electorate of around 280 for the proposed new parish ward by December 2020 (using the current ratio of electors to properties in the Parish). This however is only a guide figure.

Taking the growth site into account, and other known changes (including other Vision 2031 allocations in the Parish and the effect of the recommendation for issue 4), the total electorate of the Parish in December 2020 is forecast to be around 2070. Meaning the following:

Ward	Estimated 2020 electorate	Percentage
North	1790	86.5
South	280	13.5
Total	2070	100.00

On that basis (and assuming no change to the total number of councillors for the Parish), it was recommended for consultation purposes that the proposed South Ward should initially have 2 parish councillors out of the total of 11 (18% of the total councillors, compared to 13.5% of the estimated electorate). With a scheme of 11 councillors, this provides better electoral equality than the alternative, which would be to have one councillor (one councillor is a 49% variance from the average of 188.2 electors per councillor for the Parish, whereas 2 councillors is 26%). It is also understood that there would need to be another CGR between the 2019 and 2023 parish elections to reflect a more accurate five year estimate at that point.

Potential Amendments to Recommendation Raised in Consultation

The Parish Council supports the recommendation but has proposed changing the name of one of the new parish wards from "South" to "Barton Severalls". The Town Council feels the new homes should be in Bury St Edmunds Parish.

Responses During Phase 2 Consultation

Responses to the phase 1 consultation can be read at: www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/cgr

A. Great Barton Parish Council

The Parish Council has indicated that is very happy with the recommendations under the new CGR. It felt that the 9:2 split of councillors between the two proposed parish wards was fair and has suggested the name of 'Barton Severalls' for the new ward, as this is the name of the copse on the piece of land for the growth site (and is also used by the developer).

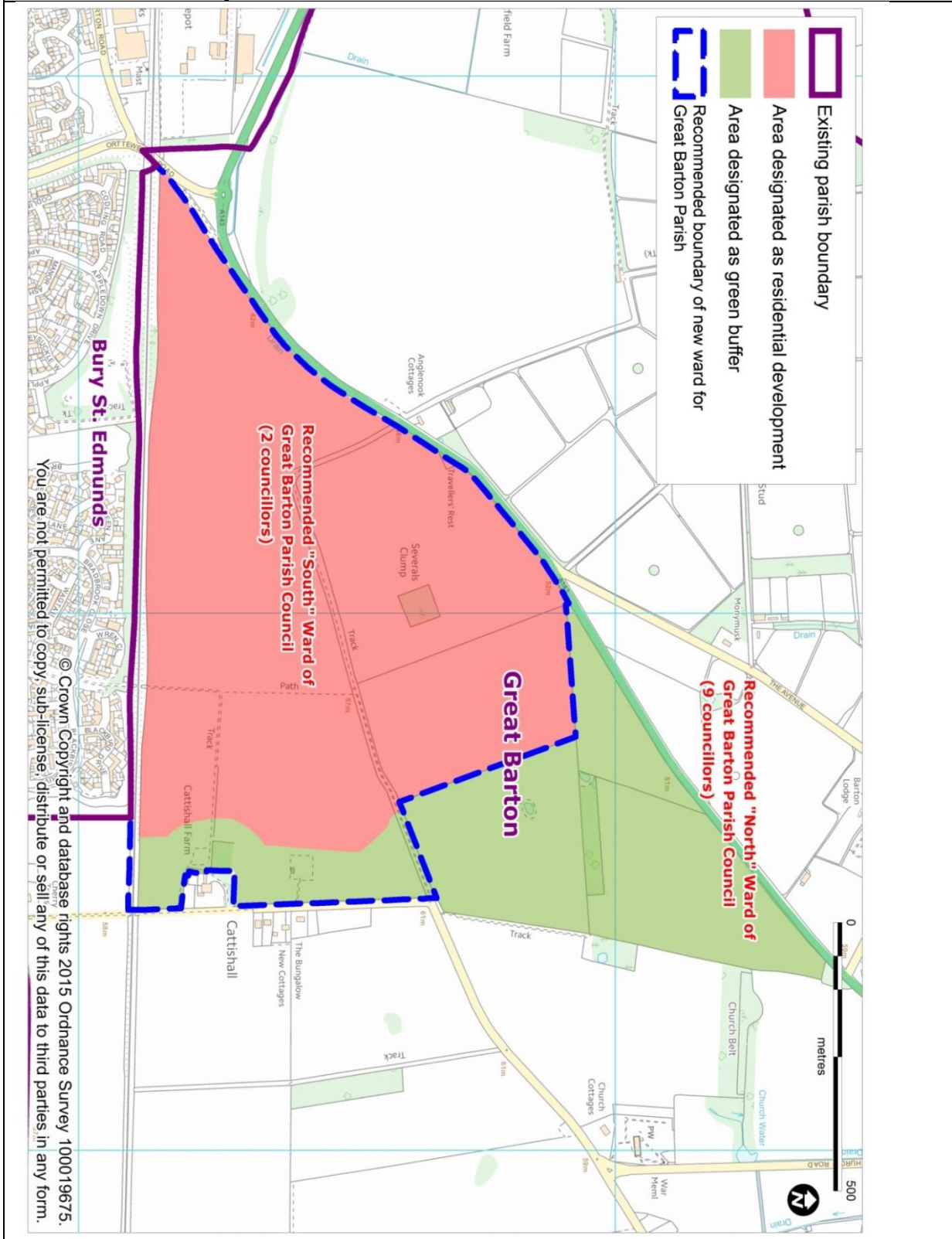
B. Bury St Edmunds Town Council

In addition to repeating its phase 1 response (which proposed incorporating the growth site with Bury St Edmunds Parish on the grounds that it would provide better community cohesion, integration and identity), the Town Council has added the following comment in Phase 2:

"The natural field boundaries and railway line etc., are not indicative of the reality that the growth site will be of new housing, the residents of which will have more connection with Bury as their sense of place where they live work,

shop and enjoy recreational time. Retention in Gt Barton would artificially attach these homes as a new ward of a very different rural parish with which the residents will have little sense of place or reason to visit. It could be felt to be divisive when neighbours in similar houses around these boundaries will in reality both use Town amenities put paying Council Tax precepts to different councils. Locality monies, grant funding and representation in Bury matters would be provided by Bury St Edmunds Town Council."

Consultation map C – Issue 3



No	Area or Properties Under Review	Parishes Directly Affected	Matter covered by final recommendation
4	Vision 2031 Strategic Site "Moreton Hall" This issue should be read in conjunction with issues 6, 7 and 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Bury St Edmunds •Great Barton •Rushbrooke with Rougham 	Whether or not existing parish governance arrangements should be amended in respect of new homes and/or employment land included in the strategic growth site.

Final Recommendation for Consultation

- (1) The areas of Bury St Edmunds, Great Barton and Rushbrooke with Rougham Parishes be amended as shown on consultation map D.**
- (2) The electoral arrangements of Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish be amended as follows:**
 - (a) the "Moreton Hall" Vision 2031 growth site (and other existing properties) be represented by 2 parish councillors elected to a "North" parish ward, with a boundary shown on consultation map D; and**
 - (b) the remaining electors in the Parish be represented by 9 councillors elected to a "South" parish ward.**

The proposed new external parish boundaries for consultation, which are shown on the map overleaf, reflect a recent planning consent for the growth site as well as the strong boundaries provided by the existing roads (including Lady Miriam Way) and the railway.

This recommendation does not increase the overall number of parish councillors for Rushbrooke with Rougham from 11. However, if it is adopted, further CGRs may be required between future parish council elections to ensure continued electoral equality between the two parish wards as the new development grows, reflecting the latest electorate forecasts.

The reasons for the recommendation include:

- 1. **local preference** (*while there were alternative proposals and views, this option was supported by both Great Barton and Rushbrooke with Rougham Parishes (councils and electors) and by many stakeholders (including the Rougham Tower Association and the new Academy in phase 1. Both rural parishes also wished to see a change in their common boundary);*
- 2. **it potentially provides parish boundaries to reflect the identities and interests of local residents (current and future) and offers them more effective and convenient local government** (*respondents supporting the option in phase 1 felt that: the identity and history of Rushbrooke with Rougham (particularly its airfield) could be lost if there is any further movement of the boundary with Bury St Edmunds; and creating a new parish ward would allow the new community to develop with a distinct local identity, appropriate local services and strong and focused democratic representation, as well as being an integrated part of the existing parish (which already has several distinct communities); and*
- 3. **it reflects, in community identity terms, the barrier created by the railway.**

Five Year Electorate Forecast

The latest estimate of electorate change relating to the "Moreton Hall" Vision 2031 growth site of 500 homes is that it will result in 885 new electors when fully developed.

Until development actually starts, it is very hard to make a reliable five year estimate to December 2020. An assumption that around 100 homes might be occupied by that point would suggest an electorate of around 240 for the proposed new parish ward by December 2020 (using the current ratio of electors to properties in the Parish, and adjusting for existing electors and Issues 3 and 8). This however is only a guide figure.

Taking the growth site into account, and other known changes (including other Vision 2031 allocations in the Parish and the effect of other CGR recommendations), the total electorate of the Parish in December 2020 is forecast to be around 1110. Meaning the following:

Ward	Estimated 2020 electorate	Percentage of Parish
North	240	21.6
South	870	78.4
Total	1110	100

On that basis (and assuming no change to the total number of councillors for the Parish), it is recommended for consultation purposes that the proposed North Ward should initially have 2 parish councillors out of the total of 11 (18% of the total councillors, compared to 22% of the estimated electorate). With a scheme of 11 councillors, this provides marginally better electoral equality than the alternative, which would be to have 3 councillors (3 councillors is a 20.7% variance from the average of 100.9 electors per councillor for the Parish, whereas 2 councillors is 18.9%). It is also understood that there would need to be another CGR between the 2019 and 2023 parish elections to reflect a more accurate five year estimate at that point.

Potential Amendments to Recommendation Raised in Consultation

Generally speaking, respondents associated with the two rural parishes support the recommendation, whereas those associated with Bury St Edmunds/Moreton Hall oppose it (and believe the new homes should be in Bury St Edmunds or a new Moreton Hall Parish).

Responses During Phase 2 Consultation

Responses to the phase 1 consultation can be read at: www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/cgr

A. Rushbrooke With Rougham Parish Council

"The Parish Council stands fully behind the previous submission [see link above] and supports the resolutions passed by St Edmundsbury Borough Council. The Parish Council will, therefore, only summarise the points previously made.

The St Edmundsbury Borough Council in December resolved in respect of Issue 4 – Vision 2031 Strategic Site 'Moreton Hall' -that:

- 1) That the areas of Bury St Edmunds, Great Barton and Rushbrooke with

Rougham Parishes be amended as shown on the attached consultation map

- 2) The electoral arrangement of Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish be amended as follows:
 - a) The 'Moreton Hall' vision 2031 growth site (and other existing properties) be represented by 2 Parish Councillors elected to a North Parish Ward with a boundary shown on the attached map
 - b) The remaining electors in the Parish be represented by 9 councillors elected to a South Parish Ward.

Part 1) above reflects the Parish Council's resolutions of 26th October 2015 and Part 2) above was approved by the Parish Council at their meeting of 28th January 2016.

For the avoidance of doubt, all the area within the Parish to the north of the A14 would become the North Ward and the area south of the A14 within the Parish would become the South Ward.

The reasons why this resolution was approved by the St Edmundsbury Borough Council in November were:

- 1) The proposed new external boundaries reflect the recent planning consent for the growth site as well as the strong natural boundaries provided by the existing roads (including Lady Miriam Way) and the railway
- 2) The recommendation does not increase the overall number of Parish Councillors for this Parish from 11
- 3) Local preference
- 4) It potentially provided parish boundaries to reflect the identities and interests of local residents (current and future) and offers them a more effective and convenient local government
- 5) It reflects, in community identity terms, the barrier created by the railway line.

Submission

The Parish Council believes that the Sybil Andrews Academy, the new Business Park and, most importantly, all the residents of the new Taylor Wimpey development would be best served by being part of Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish (see Appendix 1 below for background on the Parish), for the reasons outlined below.

Community preferences and concerns

There is a strong feeling in the Parish that all land currently in the Parish should continue to be part of Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish. In respect of the first submission, 70 households (approximately 15% of households in the Parish) signed petitions or completed questionnaires supporting this view and several letters of support were received.

In respect of this submission we include in Appendix 2: responses from 44 households to a questionnaire supporting the Parish Council (including a number of responses from people who do not live in the Parish, but have ties to the Parish) and letters of support from Rougham Estate, other major landowners and Rougham Tower Association and it is understood that there are also a number of online responses in support.

The support within the Parish and outside is driven by strong rational factors, as well as emotional and historical considerations. There is a strong feeling that the Bury St Edmunds Town boundary should not move any further east where it would not be clearly identifiable and a fear that the Parish could lose its identity by being absorbed into Bury St Edmunds.

History

The Parish is extremely proud of its historical connection with the World War II USAAF operations at Rougham Airfield. This airfield and ancillary facilities extended over a wide area of Rougham.

Rougham Tower Association (the principal organisation devoted to the history of the airfield) will continue to forge links with the new Academy. Moreover Taylor Wimpey will recommend that the roads in the new development are named after US airmen who served at Rougham. All of this will encourage a feeling of connection to the history of Rougham.

Creation of distinct boundaries

The Parish Council agrees that minor adjustments should be made to the current Parish boundaries so that these are recognisable and distinct, rather than an arbitrary line drawn on a map. The boundary between the Parish and Bury St Edmunds Town would run along Lady Miriam Way and the boundary with Great Barton would be the railway line. Since construction of the new properties is about to start, it is imperative that these new boundaries are implemented as soon as possible, to avoid the risk that further anomalies might be created and to ensure that the new residents are quickly integrated into the Parish.

Creation of strong communities

The residents of the new Taylor Wimpey development would be almost 50% of the electorate of the Parish of Rushbrooke with Rougham ($830/1781 = 46.6\%$), giving them a major say in local affairs, (initially there would be 2 ward members rising to 5 when the development is complete) increasing empowerment and enhancing democracy. In contrast they would be only, approximately, 2.5% of the electorate of Bury St Edmunds Town Council and the number of residents of the Taylor Wimpey development would not be large enough to warrant their own Town Councillor. If there was a new Moreton Hall Parish then the development, when completed, would represent approximately 13% of that possible new Parish. Both of these options would seriously limit the residents' ability to influence matters locally.

The layout of the roads and cycle paths from the new development are directed towards Rougham rather than Bury St Edmunds, particularly access to the A14 via the new Rougham Tower Avenue. There is no direct road access from the Taylor Wimpey development to the Moreton Hall Estate.

Health and wellbeing of residents

As well as access to the footpaths and cycle paths, the residents of the whole Parish including the new development would have access to all local facilities. Each of the main areas of the Parish would be encouraged to create their own individual identity within the Parish whilst participating fully with regular events within the Parish as a whole.

Access to local services

The new development will have safe access to all new facilities, as well as existing facilities in Rougham village. Once the Flying Fortress is renovated, the development will have its own public house.

Precept

The Parish Council would put a significant part of the precept income from the new development aside to promote activities and civic cohesion within the development and the Parish as a whole. The Parish Council would, therefore, not reduce the precept on individual properties.

Conclusion

The Parish Council and a significant number of residents of the Parish support the Borough Council's current position and would urge the Borough Council at their meeting in June to continue to adopt the boundaries as laid out. The residents of the Taylor Wimpey development would have significantly more influence and be much better served by being a large part of a small Parish Council than a very small part of the larger Town Council.

"The most important thing is that Rougham and Rushbrooke has a very long history; Saxon-Roman road and possible Viking - this history should be kept alive as a place without history is dead. I like living here because I have found nowhere any better. I was born here 88 years ago and have spent time in other parts of the world. The community spirit has been good centred on the shop, the pub, the Church, the Chapel and the Sports Hall." This is a quote from the Parish Plan five years ago and the Parish Council feels that it is its duty to maintain this sentiment.

N.B. Appendices 2 and 5 of the Parish Council submission are summarised in a later section of this report, being the responses from a local farming family (the major landowners referred to above) and other residents.

Appendix 1

Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish

Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish is a large and scattered Parish consisting of currently three main areas, Mouse Lane/Newthorpe, Kingshall Street/Orchard Close/Smithy Close and Rushbrooke, together with other smaller areas such as Rougham Green, High Rougham and the area north of the A14 including Sow Lane, Mount Road, Rougham Estate near the ruined hall, and Rougham Airfield. There are about 500 properties and 951 registered electors; there is a wide variety of housing stock. Facilities include a primary school with swimming pool, a secondary school (the new Sibyl Andrews Academy) under construction, a village shop and post office, one well-supported public house, a sports/community centre with playing fields and children's play area between the two main Rougham centres, and a further play area at Mouse Lane. There is an extensive network of rural footpaths and cycle paths. The Parish includes the Rougham Industrial Estate with both small and large employers and a number of cottage industries.

Appendix 2

Letter of support from Rougham Estate

"The Rougham Estate fully supports the efforts of our parish council to rationalise the parish boundary in the light of the forthcoming development of the Moreton Hall area within the parish. It will benefit new residents of

the area as it will the parish.”

Appendix 4

Letter of support from Rougham Tower Association

“The Parish Council have requested that we further confirm our support for their position with regard to the parish boundaries.

I personally joined the Rougham Tower Association a year after its creation and have been a resident of Rougham since 1981.

The committee fully supports the positive proposals that have been put forward:

- (a) The distinct and identifiable boundary between the Parish and Bury St Edmunds should be Lady Miriam Way and its continuation south to the A14.
- (b) The boundary between this Parish and Great Barton Parish to the Mid Suffolk border i.e. Thurston should be the Railway Line and not that which runs in the main along Mount Road. For the avoidance of doubt this to include the Taylor Wimpey development to the north of Mount Road as there is a distinct natural boundary between this development and Moreton Hall.
- (c) The boundary to the west of the Parish should be extended to the A134 to the west, the SE Bury St Edmunds development to the north and Whelnetham to the south.

Over the years we have witnessed erosion of our proud heritage by St Edmundsbury Borough Council, an example, giving the Freedom of the Borough to RAF Mildenhall/Lakenheath, yet later in the year demolishing buildings with historical importance from a chapter in time that we take for granted today. How many wartime airfields are close to a jewel of a town such as Bury St Edmunds with its incredible historical merits?

The committee consider that proposed boundaries will make the airfield more secure thus preserving its important heritage.

As a guide showing American visitors with direct family connections to the 94th Bomb Group around the control tower and associated buildings, I find it difficult to explain the demise of our history.

Signed on behalf of the committee, and members of the RTA.”

N.B. The Chairman of the RTA, a resident of Stanton, also completed one of the Parish Council’s survey forms, expressing support for the recommendations.

B. Great Barton Parish Council

The Parish Council has confirmed its support for the recommendations.

C. Bury St Edmunds Town Council

In addition to repeating its phase 1 response (which proposed incorporating the growth site with Bury St Edmunds Parish on the grounds that it would provide

better community cohesion, integration and identity), the Town Council has added the following comment in Phase 2:

"As regards the desire for a green buffer to halt the expansion of Bury St Edmunds expressed by Rushbrooke with Rougham parish council, Vision 2031 had already taken this into account. They state that Lady Miriam Way should be the boundary of this – a relatively new road – why not a boundary that is behind the Sybil Andrews School, thus preserving a green buffer but permitting the inclusion of the 500 new homes which were marketed by Taylor Wimpey as Bury homes. This would unite residents who will have a common sense of community with the whole of Moreton Hall and not artificially attach them as a new ward of a more remote and rural parish with which they will have little sense of place and will have less reason to visit and could be felt to be divisive with neighbours in similar houses in a different parish, with both using Town amenities put paying precepts to different councils. Locality monies, grant funding and representation to have a say in Bury matters would be provided by Bury St Edmunds Town Council. The addition of 500 houses in a recognisable "Town" are will skew the personality of the more rural parish."

D. Moreton Hall Residents' Association

"The Guidance on Community Governance Reviews states that it places a duty on principal authorities to have regard to the need to secure that any CGR for the area under review reflects the identities and interests of the local community in the area. Rougham is a spread out village with no real centre at least three miles from Moreton Hall and on the other side of the A14. The new houses and the Sybil Andrews Academy are adjacent to an established area that forms part of the town and there is no symmetry or connection to Rougham. Rushbrooke with Rougham is a rural parish and again the CGR guidance seeks a strong inclusive community and voluntary sector, a sense of civic values responsibility and pride, a sense of place, reflective of the identities and the interests of the community in that area and effective and convenient. None of these criterion will be met if the houses and school are part of Rougham. The school is specifically designed for Moreton Hall pupils from Abbots Green and Sebert Wood. You will also have a wide disparity in Parish Precepts.

Residents of Moreton Hall have excellent facilities and the occupiers of the new houses are almost certain to use existing shop, dentist, doctor, chemist and cafe facilities. It is impractical to suggest they will even consider Rushbrooke with Rougham a home.

CGR guidance goes onto say local communities should have access to good quality local services ideally in one place. Moreton Hall can provide this. Rougham cannot. The boundary should be beyond Sybil Andrews and the Sports centre leaving some of the business in Moreton Hall, with the western section adjoining Rougham Industrial Estate being Rougham with the A14 to the south and Mount Road to the north.

The allocation of the new houses in Moreton Hall Ward will unite residents and give them a sense of belonging rather than an artificial attachment to a remote and spread out village all of which is to the south of the A14 with narrow roads and poor if non-existent footpaths and with no real reason for residents of Moreton Hall to visit."

E. Local Electors and businesses

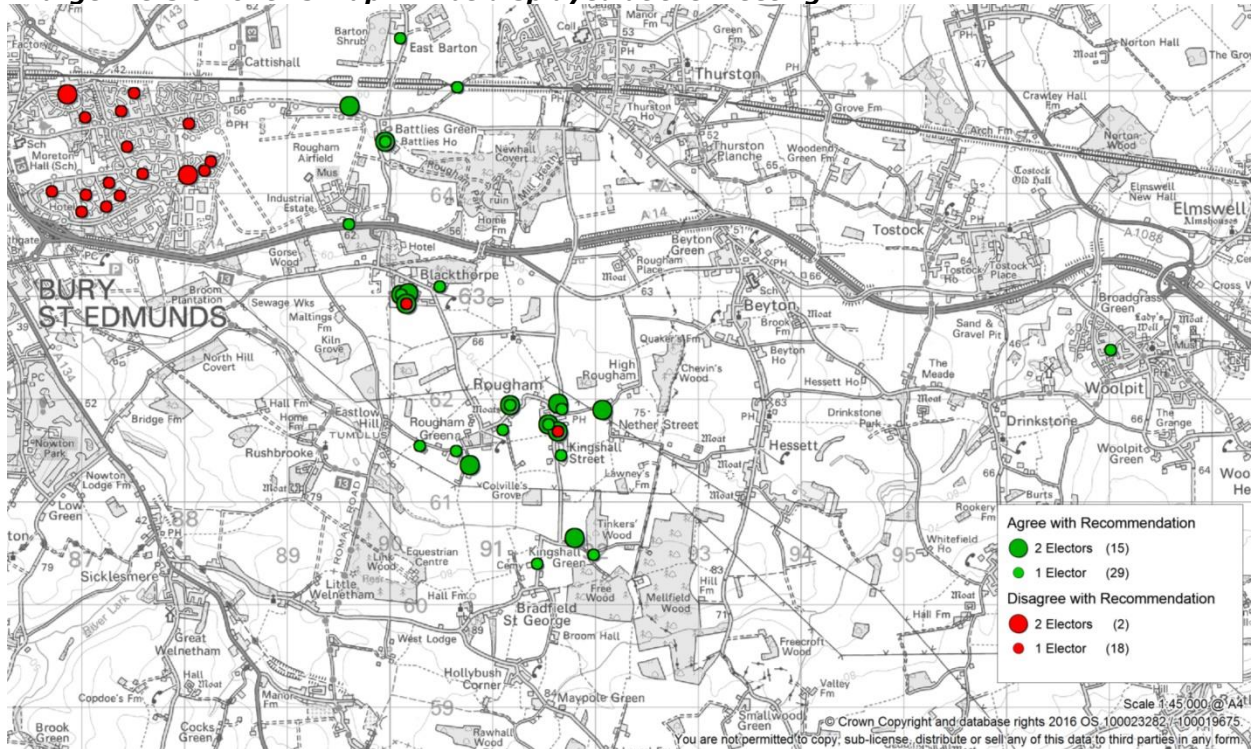
The Borough Council received emails, online responses and local survey forms regarding this issue from **82** residents in the three affected parishes. One of these was a combined response from a local resident/business.

In respect of the central issue (the parishing of the new homes), the responses broke down as follows:

	Agree with recommendation (leave in Rougham)	Disagree (move to Bury St Edmunds)
Emails	1	5
Local survey	50	2
Online response form	8	16
Total	59 (72%)	23 (28%)

A map showing the distribution of electors supporting the creation of a parish council is set out below:

A larger version of this map will be displayed at the meeting.



NB Please note that the dots show the central point of a respondent's shared postcode, not their actual property.

In terms of a geographic split, it can be seen that responses are generally divided between those in Rougham who support the recommendation and those who live in Moreton Hall who disagree with it.

The local survey referred to above was carried out by Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council and is referred to in the Parish Council's response above. The Borough Council has been provided with the original returns so these can be summarised alongside other elector responses here. Respondents were asked by

the Parish Council to agree or disagree with two detailed statements directly relating to the Borough Council's final recommendation for issue 4. Responses were broken down as follows (the totals show the number of individual electors referred to on the forms, rather than the number of forms):

	Agree	Disagree
The boundary between this Parish and Bury St Edmunds Town should be Lady Miriam Way and its continuation south to the A14	50	2*
The boundary between this Parish and Great Barton Parish to the Mid-Suffolk border should be the railway line and not that which runs along Mount Road (in the main).	52	0

*One "not sure" (see below)

In addition, 5 individuals from outside the affected parishes (3 just over the boundary in Thurston, 1 from Risby and 1 from Colchester) completed the parish council survey, also expressing support for the two statements above on the basis of their personal connection with the Parish.

In addition to the responses from local residents, the Council has received an email from the business which farms land affected by the proposed change of the parish boundary with Great Barton. The farmers have indicated that they do not believe it will make a huge difference to them if the boundary changed to the Railway line.

Qualitative evidence agreeing with the recommendation

Comments received with the expressed preferences of those supporting the recommendation (72% of the preferences expressed) were as follows:

- In common with many Rougham residents, we strongly believe that the new homes should be in Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish
- We think it should stay in Rougham.
- Just a short note to say I fully support the new recommended boundaries on consultation map D Issues 4,6,7 & 8. This makes far more sense to have well marked boundaries, a road to the west and south and a railway line to the north.
- We feel it is very important to preserve the integrity of Rougham Village by protecting our boundaries. Bury St Edmunds has extended far enough and we see no reason why it should take another piece of Rougham. The above policies will ensure our future identity.
- I think our village should stay as it is. I have lived in Rougham for 60 years, why should Bury steal any more of our land. There is land in other villages, i.e. Risby, Westley, close to the A14. Moreton Hall has enough homes there now.
- Makes complete sense especially from a warding point of view [NB existing residents within proposed North Ward].

- Leave the area concerned under the control of Rougham PCC - keep off greedy Bury Council!!

Qualitative evidence disagreeing with the recommendation

Comments received with the expressed preferences of those disagreeing with the recommendation (28% of total preferences) were as follows. 21 of these respondents lived on Moreton Hall, but 2 were actually from Rougham (including the respondent who was "not sure").

- It's important, I feel, to keep Rougham Tower and as much of the airfield as possible, but I don't know what benefit it will be to have 500 houses and school which is, effectively, more a part of Moreton Hall than Rougham and Rushbrooke. *[N.B. This is the respondent who said they were "not sure"]*
- Years ago when Ted May was our mayor and councillor he always said the row of trees well behind Ridley's was the Rougham boundary. These trees are still there.
- I do not believe that there is any logic in the School and new houses being incorporated into Rougham PC. The PC is not in a position to provide any services to the new development and any cost or service provision will be carried or provided by Moreton Hall and Bury.
- The new residents will identify with their neighbours in Moreton Hall rather than with villages the other side of the A14. The new residents are much more likely to use the facilities and amenities on Moreton Hall which will be within walking distance. The school was built with Section 106 money earned from the various Moreton Hall developments and all along has been billed as the new school on Moreton Hall. Identity should be the most important factor, and not the precept that can be earned for a Parish Council.
- I have given this matter much consideration and have come to the conclusion that the new homes must be within Bury St Edmunds as must the school. The growth site has always been referred to as Moreton Hall, and a new secondary school has for years been planned for Moreton Hall, paid for by Section 106 money from developments on Moreton Hall. Perhaps of greater importance is the identity of the new residents. Their neighbours will be in Moreton Hall, and they will use the facilities and amenities of Moreton Hall. Travelling in to town will be via parishes that are part of Bury St Edmunds parish, and so these new residents will identify with the Town Parish and not with villages with whom they will share nothing immediate. They will have no affinity with the village of Rougham the other side of the A14. It does not matter particularly where you live in National elections, but in local elections you want to understand and be able to relate to the issues of your ward/parish. The new residents won't have a clue what the villages of Rougham and Rushbrooke want or need, and so be alienated and discouraged from taking part in local elections.
- We consider that the new housing should be in the current Bury St Edmunds Parish, Moreton Hall ward as it is an extension of Moreton Hall with a natural boundary to the Rougham side of the housing.
- I support the creation of a parish council for Moreton Hall because I believe the

residents here would benefit from paying to their own parish council rather than to BTC. Moreton Hall is expanding rapidly and is a great community. We would like to have more control over our own affairs and how money is spent I think we are entitled to that and to spend that money for the improvement of facilities here in Moreton Hall. Not Great Barton or Rougham.

- We also support retaining the current boundaries of our Estate. Considering that the various Councils' historic "Planned Visions" have always been promulgated utilizing these boundaries. Now to continue to build within the Moreton Hall Boundaries and call it Rougham without any direct effect on Rougham's infrastructure, approximately 3 to 4 miles away, seems deeply concerning and questionable. Surely this would distort the historic and future infrastructure and traffic calculations, to the detriment of Moreton Hall. It also raises the question that who would table such a motion, never mind support it? We wish to point out that we have lived on Moreton hall since April 1980. Therefore we have witnessed, since its beginning, the overall poor performance of the various councils and Highway Agency decisions which seem unconcerned about its infrastructure, continued deterioration and pollution, to the advantage of the Developers and not the electorate.
- I do not agree with your Final Report where it states the area is defined by the strong barriers* of the railway line and Lady Miriam Way. Lady Miriam Way is anything but a strong barrier, completely different to the railway line. Lady Miriam Way will be porous to the new envisaged local population on the East side will have a natural cohesiveness with their neighbours to the West, i.e. in Moreton Hall. They will want to use the local facilities in the Moreton Hall Community Centre, including the Post Office, GP, the primary school, bus routes and buses to the town. They will have all these things in common with Moreton Hall rather than Rougham. Other factors drawing them close to Moreton Hall, rather than Rougham, will be any road traffic issues, utility supplies, land drainage and flooding, employment in the area, sharing of transport to work or town or school. The present proposed parish boundary along Lady Miriam Way seems to me as a local resident more designed to keep local politicians happy rather than a pragmatic look at what best serves the needs of the new amalgamated community. I suggest a stronger barrier (in the terms of the Final Report) would be across the middle of Rougham Airfield. The local population would naturally see and understand a separation of the parishes if it was situated somewhere near the centre of the airfield.

**Wording of report is as shown at the start of this summary.*

- Why are you proposing to split Moreton Hall (which is a suburb of Bury St. Edmunds) between two parishes? The whole "parish" should remain under the governance of one council, not two. I look forward to hearing your argument for splitting the parish (or otherwise).
- The growth site will naturally fit in with the rest of Moreton Hall which is socially very different to the rural parish of Rougham.
- I believe the growth site , school etc should be included in the Moreton Hall (BSE) as the nearest shops, dentists and indeed mini Town is where I believe residents of that area will go to service their needs and feel more in contact with the Moreton Hall Community. With the boundary being A14 on one side, the

railway track on the other and the line of trees along the Rougham airfield forming top end of boundary (all natural straightforward boundaries in my opinion) as a resident of a number of years. The Developers and residents already refer to that whole area as Moreton Hall new school and housing

- There is no connection between Moreton Hall and Rushbrooke with Rougham. The centre of Rougham Village is some 3 miles away from Moreton Hall and also on the south side of the A 14 with a difficult road access and virtually no footpaths. In terms of community cohesion the proposal lacks common sense. The facilities at Moreton Hall at Lawson Place are within easy walking and cycling distance and will be easily accessible for the residents of the new homes whereas the facilities in Rougham are limited and Rougham is a spread out village with no real Centre or focus point. The difference in the precept between Rushbrooke with Rougham and Bury Town Council for council tax is considerable and what is suggested is unfair on the future residents. The residents will almost certainly use the Moreton Hall Facilities but Bury Town Council will lose out on income. Moreton Hall has always been considered an extension of Bury Town and to create an arbitrary boundary separating what is in fact one community Close to the town with established facilities and putting part of the area into a rural parish with very limited facilities, a lack of pavements and poor street lighting goes against the ethos of the Government's Community Governance Review guidelines. Under Bury 2031 Moreton Hall was referred to as part of Bury St Edmunds and the new Sybil Andrews Academy is designed for pupils for Moreton Hall from Sebert Wood and Abbotts Green. The proposal as outlined is ill thought through and seems politically expedient. The new houses along with the school should be within Moreton Hall Ward.
- I think the new homes and especially the New School should come under Bury St Edmunds
- Moreton Hall, by its geographical location, has natural hard ground boundaries, i.e. rail line to the north, A14 to the west and south and the eastern boundary would be the road that runs from the A14 at junction 45 through to Battlies Green to the rail line. This could further be divided into east and west Ward of Moreton Hall by the road Lady Miriam Way. More income from the new houses that are proposed for the west side of Lady Miriam Way will still be in Moreton Hall and therefore any money raised from these properties should go to the TOWN COUNCIL and not ROUGHAM PARISH COUNCIL. This will ensure that the funds will be available to the councillors of Moreton Hall, so that they can sort out any issues regarding the Moreton Hall housing and industrial development as many of the problems associated with this area will be because the Moreton Hall housing estate area is trapped by the aforementioned boundaries. It is therefore logical that the existing hard boundaries be recognised as such and will reduce any confusion in the future. At present, even those people west [*sic*] of Lady Miriam Way in the proposed new houses will have to travel to the other side of the A14 (2 to 3 miles away) to the polling stations in the future*. The Rougham Parish Council funds will potentially be reduced, but there are other housing developments which will restore the balance in the future as the new development will fall within the jurisdiction of the Rougham Parish Council.

**As a point of clarification, if the recommendation is adopted, it would be possible to have separate polling arrangements for the new parish ward.*

- School and new houses should be in Moreton Hall. All the Rougham councillors

want them for is that in times to come they can say Rougham does not need any more houses it just had 500 new ones which are nowhere near Rougham.

- All houses and school should be in Moreton Hall.
- All new homes and school to be in Moreton Hall.

F. Borough Councillors

Cllr Sara Mildmay-White, ward councillor for Rougham, has supported the submission of Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council.

Councillor Clive Springett, ward councillor for Moreton Hall, has indicated he disagrees with the recommendation, stating:

"The vision document has always recommended that there be a green buffer between the town and the villages. A road, namely Lady Miriam Way does not provide this buffer. The residents buying houses will feel more a Moreton Hall resident and not a Rougham resident being several miles away from what is considered the centre of Rougham. They will need to travel for miles to vote, and maybe put off from voting for this reason. The new Upper school is very much an integral part of Bury St Edmunds and not Rougham. It is the precept which is attracting Rough PC and this alone. These houses belong in Bury and will benefit more from being in the Bury St Edmunds TC parish area. The boundary of the airfield provides the green buffer and this should be the boundary of the parish. Furthermore the business park should fall within the boundary of Bury and not Rougham."

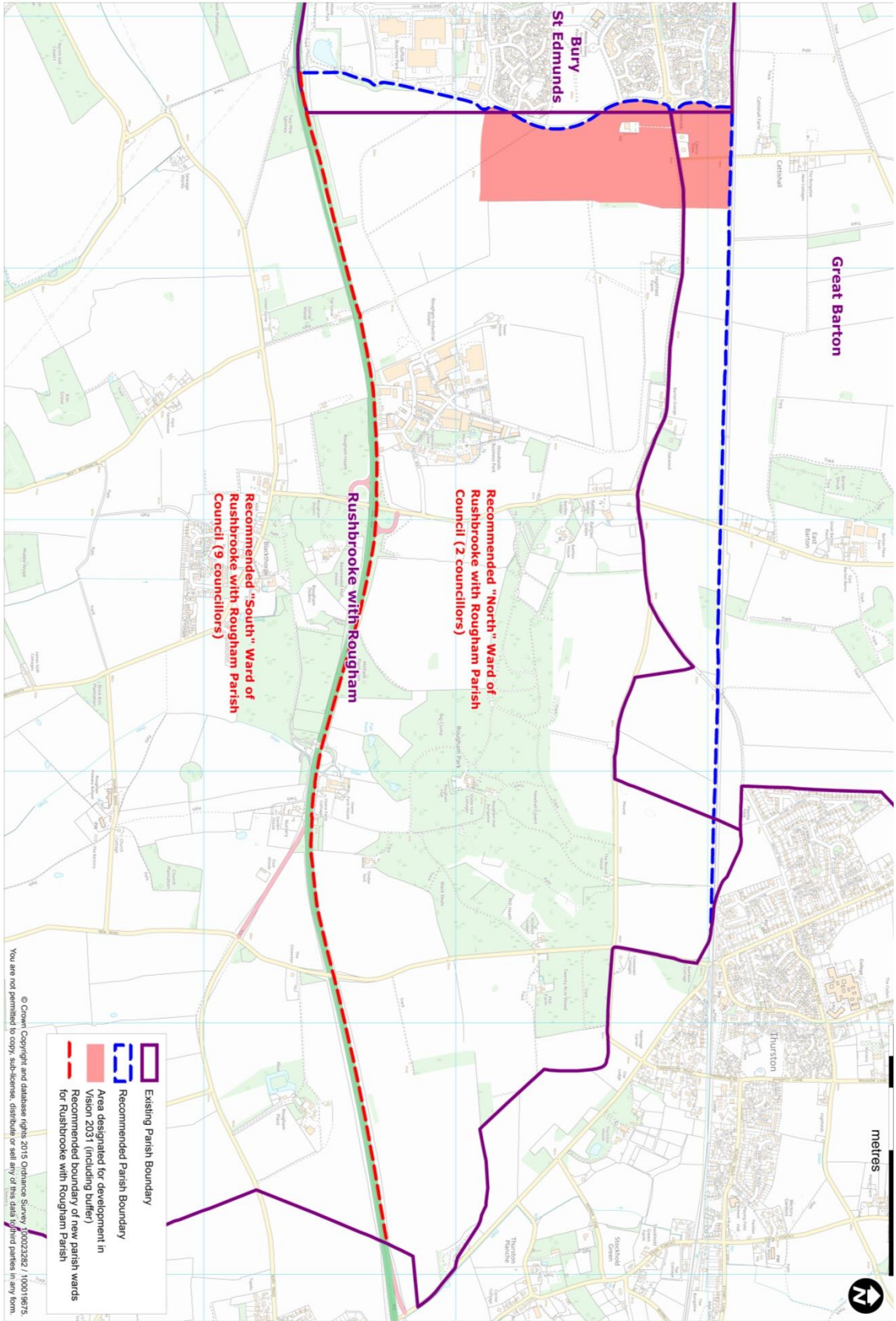
Councillor, Frank Warby, also a Moreton Hall ward member, has also disagreed with the recommendation, stating:

"The school and houses plus sports area should remain as part of Moreton Hall and Moreton Hall stay within the Bury Town Council."

G. County Councillors

Councillor Terry Clements, County Councillor for Thingoe South Division, has expressed his support for the submission of Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council.

Consultation map D – Issues 4, 6, 7 and 8



No	Area or Properties Under Review	Parishes Directly Affected	Matter covered by final recommendation
6	Vision 2031 Strategic Site "Suffolk Business Park" This issue should be read in conjunction with issues 4, 7 and 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Bury St Edmunds •Rushbrooke with Rougham 	Whether or not existing parish governance arrangements should be amended in respect of new homes and/or employment land included in the strategic growth site.

Final Recommendation for Consultation

- (1) The "Suffolk Business Park" Vision 2031 growth site be retained in Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish; and**
- (2) The boundary of Bury St Edmunds and Rushbrooke with Rougham Parishes be amended in relation to the business park to follow the southern stretch of Lady Miriam Way.**

Consultation map D illustrates this proposal and is contained in the summary for issue 4. The reasons for the recommendation include:

1. **local preference** (*the principle of the proposal was supported by the Parish and Town Councils in phase 1*);
2. **it potentially provides more appropriate parish boundaries to reflect the interests and identity of local electors and businesses (current and future) and offers them more effective and convenient local government** (*respondents in phase 1 commented on the need to preserve the community and historic identity of Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council*);
3. **it reflects the strong boundary of Lady Miriam Way.**

Potential Amendments to Recommendation Raised in Consultation

The Moreton Hall Residents' Association and some residents of Moreton Hall suggest the business park should all be in Bury St Edmunds or a new Moreton Hall Parish, but there is support for the recommendation from the Parish and Town Councils, as well as from some residents of Rougham and their councillors.

Responses During Phase 2 Consultation

Responses to the phase 1 consultation can be read at: www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/cgr

A. Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council

See issue 4 (supports recommendation).

B. Bury St Edmunds Town Council

The Town Council has resolved to repeat its previous response which was to make "no comment as regards the Business Park, which is in the parish of Rushbrooke with Rougham".

C. Moreton Hall Residents' Association

The Moreton Hall Ward should be extended to take these areas into account.

Should remain in Moreton Hall as a cohesive business area. The Boundary for Rougham should be by the Rougham Industrial Estate and the whole area should be in Moreton Hall. It is a historical anomaly that this small corner is cut off from the majority of the Rushbrooke and Rougham Parish by the A14.

D. Local Electors and Businesses

Seven electors and one local business from Rougham (the business being in Rougham Village) agreed with the recommendation. Comments received with these expressions of support were:

- Should stay in Rougham.
- We strongly believe the new Suffolk Business Park should remain in Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish.
- Just a short note to say I fully support the new recommended boundaries on consultation map D Issues 4, 6, 7& 8. This makes far more sense to have well marked boundaries, a road to the west and south and a railway line to the north.

Five electors from Moreton Hall disagreed. The reasons included were:

- Should be within Bury St Edmunds
- The Moreton Hall Area is an established part of the town of Bury St Edmunds. Rushbrooke with Rougham has nothing in common with the Moreton Hall area and is indeed a totally separate part of the rural fringe and the majority of the parish is not easily accessible from Moreton Hall with the main village centre being some 3 miles away on the south side of the A14. There is already an established and thriving business community and it again goes against community cohesion to have this separate from Bury St Edmunds. One could understand the logic if Rougham Village were close but it is not. The Moreton Hall boundaries should be defined by the A14 in the south, the railway line in the north and the edge of the Rougham Industrial Estate to the east. The government guidelines on the Community Governance Review stress the importance of community cohesion. This proposal does not achieve this aim and should be firmly rejected. The anomaly of some of the houses in Lady Miriam Way should be corrected transferring them into Moreton Hall as well as extending the Moreton Hall area to form a close knit cohesive community.
- We consider that the Business Park should be in the Moreton Hall parish. We also consider that the Moreton Hall Parish should be separate from the Bury St Edmunds Parish.

E. Borough and County Councillors

The submission of Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council was signed by Cllrs Terry Clements and Sara Mildmay-White.

No	Area or Properties Under Review	Parishes Directly Affected	Matter covered by final recommendation
7	Moreton Hall area of Bury St Edmunds <i>This issue should be read in conjunction with issues 4, 6 and 8</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Bury St Edmunds •Great Barton •Rushbrooke with Rougham 	The proposal of Cllr Beckwith to create an entirely new parish of Moreton Hall (by removing these properties from existing parished areas). Since this element of the review will need to link with issues 4, 6 and 8, it will potentially affect Great Barton and/or Rushbrooke with Rougham parishes.

Final Recommendation for Consultation

That the Moreton Hall area of Bury St Edmunds remains in Bury St Edmunds Parish, and no new parish be created.

The Council noted that the small number of local electors responding to the phase 1 (fact-finding) consultation were split fairly evenly on whether creating a new parish council would be appropriate (7 in favour of a parish council and 6 in favour of the status quo). On balance, therefore, the Council felt that there was currently insufficient evidence to allow it to recommend to electors that a new parish be created for Moreton Hall and that it should be the status quo position that is tested in the final stage of the review.

However, in consulting on such a final recommendation, the Council agreed to make it clear to respondents what the alternative option and implications would be, since the Council can change its recommendation in the light of evidence received. The information published is set out immediately below.

The Borough Council's final recommendation for consultation would see the Moreton Hall area remain within the existing Bury St Edmunds Parish, and continue to be served by the Town Council. The area would continue to have its own ward within the parish, with its own town councillors. More information on the Town Council can be found at: <http://www.burystedmunds-tc.gov.uk/>.

The alternative option, as suggested by Cllr Beckwith, would be to create an entirely new and separate Parish for the Moreton Hall area, served by its own parish council. This would reduce the area of the current Bury St Edmunds Parish, and therefore the proposal affects all electors within Bury St Edmunds (see below).

As Moreton Hall is already in a parish, and is represented by the Town Council, creating a new parish council for the area would not create a new tier of local government.

Powers and functions of Parish and Town Councils

Parish and town councils are statutory bodies and are the first tier of local government in England. They serve electorates ranging from small rural communities, to towns and small cities; all are independently elected and raise a precept – a form of council tax – from the local community.

Their activities fall into three main categories: representing the local community;

delivering services to meet local needs; and striving to improve quality of life and community well being.

Parish and town council have an extensive range of discretionary powers allowing them to provide and maintain a variety of local services including allotments, bridleways, burial grounds, bus shelters, car parks, commons and open spaces, community transport schemes, community safety and crime reduction measures, events and festivals, footpaths, leisure and sports facilities, litter bins, public toilets, street cleaning and lighting, tourism activities, traffic calming measures and youth projects.

Parish and town councils also work with the Borough and County Council, and represent local views through consultation on planning, licensing and highways matters.

The services which Bury St Edmunds Town Council provides on behalf of residents, including those who live at Moreton Hall, are explained on its website: <http://www.burystedmunds-tc.gov.uk/>.

If a new parish council were formed for Moreton Hall, it would appoint a parish clerk and decide which local services it wished to provide, and what parish precept it would levy to fund these services.

Respondents to the consultation will want to consider whether they believe the electors of Moreton Hall would be better served by remaining part of the larger Town Council or by being represented by their own parish council.

Electoral arrangements

If the status quo is maintained, Moreton Hall electors would continue to be represented at parish level by Bury St Edmund town councillors in their own parish ward.

If a new parish council were to be formed it would need its own electoral arrangements at the time of first elections, most likely in 2019. Those who support the creation of a new parish for Moreton Hall will need to provide evidence to the Borough Council in relation to:

- a) its external boundary;
- b) the number of parish councillors it should have (its 'size'); and
- c) whether or not it would have its own parish wards (and what they would be).

A five year electorate forecast (to December 2020) for the current Moreton Hall Ward of Bury St Edmunds (Town and Borough Council) is around 5375 electors. The electorate of any new parish would be hard to estimate ahead of its boundaries being fixed, but this number may be a useful guide to those responding to this consultation. You can see a map of the current Moreton Hall Ward at:

http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/Council/Voting_and_Elections/upload/MoretonHallWard.pdf.

The minimum size of any new parish council for Moreton Hall would be 5 councillors, but 11 councillors would be consistent with several other large parishes in the Borough. By comparison, Bury St Edmunds Town Council comprises 17 councillors to represent the nine wards of the town (and around 28,950 electors). Three of these town councillors represent the Moreton Hall Ward.

The boundary of any new parish would need to reflect a common community identity and support convenient and effective local government. Boundaries should also, where possible, be linked to recognisable ground features, particularly those which form natural boundaries themselves.

A decision on the boundary for any new parish would need to be considered alongside issues 4, 6 and 8 in this Community Governance Review (see Consultation map D). The Borough Council also expects that there will be a review of Borough Council and town council wards before the next scheduled elections in 2019 (and after this CGR is finished).

There is no requirement for any new parish council to have wards of its own. However, any new parish could be divided into wards if it was felt that different parts of it would benefit from dedicated representation. The number of councillors for each ward would reflect the proportion of parish electors in it, to provide electoral equality.

Parish precept

The national guidance is clear that the key issue for a CGR is how best to provide the conditions for effective and convenient local government in the long-term. However, the Borough Council recognises that it is inevitable that parish precepts (the parish council's share of the Council Tax) will influence some consultation responses for the CGR.

The level of a precept is a democratically-accountable matter for an individual parish council to decide, and will be influenced by what costs a parish has or wants to meet at a particular time, and the number of households eligible to pay Council Tax. It is therefore really hard to predict what the level of any precept will be in the future, particularly for a parish council yet to be created.

Parish/town council precepts in the Borough will range from £5.78 to £113.10 in 2016/17 for a Band D property, depending on the size of a parish and the services it directly provides. Bury St Edmunds Town Council has precepted £23.40 in 2016/17 for a Band D property.

Impact on Bury St Edmunds Town Council

A new parish council for Moreton Hall would be formed from existing parished areas. Specifically, this would see the transfer of a significant portion of Bury St Edmunds Parish from the Town Council to a new parish council. As a reference point, the existing Moreton Hall Ward of Bury St Edmunds Parish comprised 5361 electors (or 18.5% of the total for the Parish) in December 2015.

The loss of these electors would not affect the powers or functions of the Town Council. However, it would reduce the tax-base of the Parish. The impact on the Town Council's precept would be impossible to predict for the reasons explained above in the "parish precept" section, and because there could be other changes to the Town Council's area arising from this CGR (see CGR issues 1, 2 and 5 in particular).

Potential Amendments to Recommendation Raised in Consultation

As set out in the next section, opinion remains divided, albeit a large majority of the 194 electors who responded to the consultation opposed the

recommendation, and wished to see it changed so that a new Parish Council is formed. The Council must therefore decide if it now has enough evidence, in relation to the criteria for CGRs and local opinion, to justify a change to the current parish boundary.

If the recommendation is changed, and a new parish council is formed, then the Borough Council will need to determine:

- (a) the name of the new parish council;
- (b) the new parish boundary;
- (c) the number of councillors;
- (d) whether the new parish will be warded; and
- (e) an implementation date and election timetable thereafter (see covering report).

No comments have been received to disagree with the consultation suggestion that any new parish could be coterminous with the Borough Council's Moreton Hall Ward, with 11 councillors. However, the Borough Council would want to reflect the outcomes of CGR issues 4, 6 and 8 in determining the actual parish boundary.

Responses During Phase 2 Consultation

Responses received in phase 1 can be read at: www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/cgr

As well as correspondence to elected representatives, community organisations and other stakeholders in the town, this issue was publicised by the Council on its website, through social media and via a press release (which resulted in media coverage). The Council also created an online response form which explained the two options available, with background information for each.

There were articles before the consultation deadline in the monthly Moreton Magazine explaining the options and how to respond. Cllr Beckwith also delivered his own letter to Moreton Hall households (see below).

The phase 2 consultation ran for around 10 weeks (mid February to 27 April 2016).

In this context, responses received were as follows.

A. Bury St Edmunds Town Council

The Town Council has resolved to repeat its initial response, which was as follows:

"The electorate of Moreton Hall consider that they live in and identify first and foremost with the community of Bury St Edmunds and look to it for most of their significant facilities as do the other residential developments of the Town. They have a hub area around Lawson Place; many of the other residential developments have shops, post office, GP surgery and community centre but that does not create a cohesive community of itself, these are facilities and arguably there is no tangible community of the whole of Moreton Hall. It would not be in the Moreton Hall electorate's interest to create a separate parish – Bury St Edmunds Town Council's precept is one of the lowest in the Borough of St Edmundsbury – the range is between £5 – and over £100; given the size of electorate and taking an

arguably conservative figure, say £15 per band D household, the precept for the existing ward of Moreton Hall would dictate that the audit, transparency, etc., requirements will be for "larger" local councils, i.e. with an income of £25,000 plus – the same level of compliance as applies to Bury St Edmunds Town Council. Moreton Hall is served by three ward councillors on the Bury St Edmunds Town Council – a separate parish will have a minimum of 5 councillors and perhaps more with the attendant electoral costs.

If Moreton Hall was separately parished it would follow that the new housing site comes at least partly within that parish. This is something which is contrary to how the developer, Taylor Wimpey views its development of the site – they have always seen Moreton Hall as being part of Bury St Edmunds and this next phase of expansion as being the same. It is a relevant consideration that Moreton Hall electorate, including the growth site electorate, would be part of a large development which is clearly the outer edges of Bury St Edmunds and yet not included.

Separate parishing of Moreton Hall would also have an unfair impact on the rest of the Parish of Bury St Edmunds – much of what the Town Council does is of general benefit to all of the residents of Bury – enhancement of cultural and sporting facilities and offerings of the Town, activities for the Town's school children, provision of allotments for anyone who lives in Bury, supporting events which all Bury people can partake of – the Olympic Torch celebrations, the cycle race events, Magna Carta celebrations, art works and a significant annual grant to enable continuance of Bury's floral displays provided by Bury in Bloom. Grants are made to help preserve and sustain or enhance some aspect of the Town's significant buildings from the Quaker Meeting House to the Athenaeum and most recently for the Guildhall. Significant grants have also been made to support the sporting facilities of the Town – the Victory Ground Sports pavilion, the Bury Skate Park and recently a playground refurbishment on the Priors Estate – such support for playground facilities is considered wherever they are in Town as and when they need refurbishment. Additionally community grants and locality monies are available to any of the Town's community groups.

The continuation of partnership working and devolution

Bury St Edmunds Town Council is well placed to take roles and the provision of services which make sense as community governance evolves from either of these two possibilities. The creation of a new parishes or the expanding of what are typical village parishes will result in dissipated local governance which will be more costly for the electorate and difficult to administer by the principal council, whereas the Town Council is better placed to assist."

In addition, the Town Council has provided the following additional information:

"Bury St Edmunds Town Council has purposefully created and now enhanced locality budgets for ward councillors – Moreton Hall has a current balance of £7,560 available for community projects and initiatives which could be to enhance the facilities for the community centre, street parties

for national events, after school clubs, sports projects etc., and for larger requirements there is grant funding.

Moreton Hall currently has 3 ward councillors, the number can increase as the ward grows without any additional administration, compliance or other overhead costs. Even with the precept increase this year at £23.40 per band D property Bury St Edmunds Town Council's precept is one of the very smallest in the St Edmundsbury Borough – the highest is £113 and the average £48; out of the 72 parishes the Town Council precept is the 4th smallest indicating a significant economy of scale. The same point applies regarding a possible perception by the rest of Bury St Edmunds that Moreton Hall, whilst being entitled to locality and grant monies via the existing ward councillors pay a separate precept yet feel part of and look to and enjoy Bury amenities which would be paid for by the rest of Bury's residents. Locality monies, grant funding and representation to have a say in Bury matters would be provided by Bury St Edmunds Town Council."

B. County Councillor Trevor Beckwith

County Councillor Trevor Beckwith proposed that this issue be examined as part of this CGR. He has not indicated that he wishes to change his original response in phase 1 of the review which was to support the creation of an entirely new parish council to represent this specific area, on the basis that it would:

- Reflect patterns of everyday life for those living and working in the area, building upon what new and existing communities have in common.
- Create a strong sense of community identity.
- Give easy access to good quality local services for new and existing residents.

His supporting comments at that time were:

"The population of Moreton Hall is four times bigger than the borough's third town (Clare) and should have greater formal control over its own affairs. I anticipate that, irrespective of local opinion, SEBC will allocate the 500 new dwellings from Vision 2031 to the Moreton Hall ward, increasing the population beyond what is acceptable representation for even a three-member BC ward Any division of the ward will not be acceptable if the only consideration is elector totals. Moreton Hall has a clearly defined boundary (A14 to the west and south, railway to the north and Lady Miriam Way to the east). The only exception to maintaining that boundary should be consultation with residents of The Bartons as to whether they consider themselves residents of Moreton Hall or Eastgate wards. My preference is that they remain in Moreton Hall but they should decide. The mistakes in the town centre, where boundaries were drawn inappropriately just to balance numbers, must not be repeated."

The following letter from Cllr Beckwith was distributed to Moreton Hall residents during phase 2:

"It's Your Decision

The proposal

As the borough council is carrying out a review of ward boundaries, I asked

them to consider creating a parish council for Moreton Hall (MHPC), using the boundaries of the current borough council Moreton Hall ward.

Background

Our Council Tax goes to three councils; the largest amount to Suffolk County Council, the middle amount to St Edmundsbury Borough Council (SEBC) and the smallest amount to Bury St Edmunds Town Council (BTC). My proposal involves the latter.

BTC was formed in 2003 and is similar to a parish council, dealing with local matters such as allotments, war memorials, commenting on planning applications and grant funding. Until this year, an average Band D property paid BTC £13.50 per year. This year it will increase to £23.40 (a rise of 73%) with a significant amount of their expenditure going on staff and premises costs.

I believe Moreton Hall residents would benefit from paying to their own parish council rather than to BTC. To be absolutely clear, it would be instead of BTC and not in addition to BTC. You would still pay Council Tax to three councils but the smallest amount would go to our MHPC and not BTC.

Why change?

To give our residents a say on local issues and how their taxes are spent.

What will it cost?

It need not cost any more that you were paying before this year's BTC tax rise. The different is it would go to our MHPC and not BTC. With far less staff, admin and premises costs we would only need a part-time Clerk.

How much would the MHPC have to spend locally?

Paying the same amount of tax as before this year's rise (average £13.50 a year) and after deducting the cost of the clerk, would leave around £35,000 pa to be spent locally.

How will it be managed?

By Moreton Hall residents elected to the MHPC (hopefully no party politicians).

What could it be spent on?

Moreton Hall is a very popular place to live so it's time local residents decided what initiatives they want. This could range from additional play equipment and recycling schemes, through to helping the many successful clubs and organisations already thriving on the estate. It could also provide the basis to apply for various grants.

We have as much right as any village to our own identity and greater control over our own affairs. Although parish councils are the lowest tier, they are the most local and give a voice to their community on important issues such as planning applications and licensing.

Current position

BTC opposed my proposal, no doubt because of the financial benefit they get from the high number of Moreton Hall taxpayers. SEBC decided not to go ahead, claiming there was not sufficient local support but if enough of

you do show support, they will reconsider in June.

If you agree email the borough council at cgr@westsuffolk.gov.uk or you can write to The Elections Manager, West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 3YU (helpline 01284 757131) giving your views. Just one line will do but add more if you wish; I/we support the creation of a parish council for Moreton Hall. Include your name(s), address and post code to prove it genuine and submit before 25 April 2016."

C. Moreton Hall Residents' Association

"We do not support this recommendation - Moreton Hall should have its own parish council. Moreton Hall is the largest ward in the town and the fastest growing area. Having been established in the early 1980s the area has grown and has its own identity. Moreton Hall Residents' Association believe that the creation of a separate Parish Council would enable the residents to benefit from very local decision making and money spent locally instead of at the moment where the majority of the precept raised by Bury Town Council appears to be spent on projects that benefit the historic Town Centre. This would mean that the Parish Council would become a statutory consultee on planning applications, could ask residents what they want money spent on devices for the area and bring democracy down to the doorstep on an area that makes up a large part of the Town and has a well established Business Park, industrial Estates and where the new commercial expansion is to take place."

D. Local electors

The Council heard from 194 residents during phase 2 (plus 2 borough councillors who are Moreton Hall electors – see E). Responses were broken down as follows:

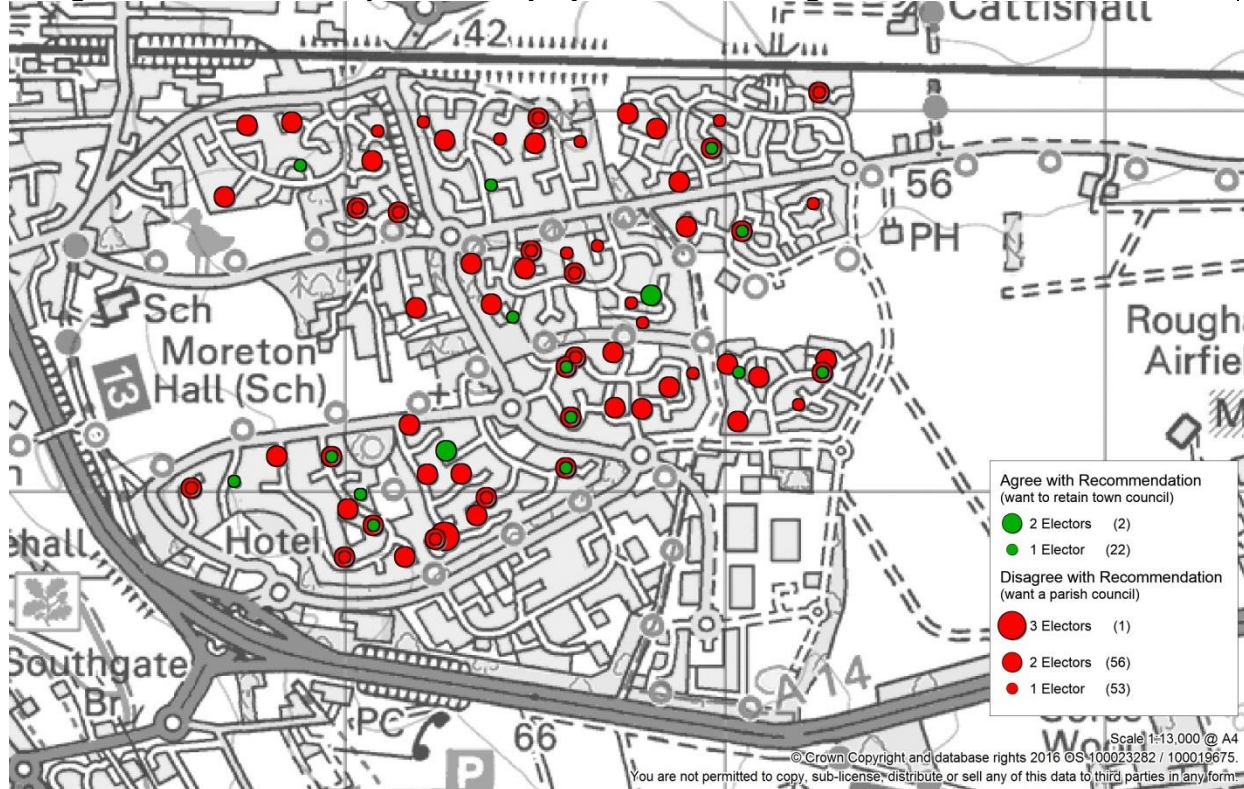
	Agree (Retain Town Council)	Disagree (Create Parish Council)
Emails	3	149
Letters	2	9
Online response form	21*	10
Total	26*	168

** 23 including the two resident borough councillors, making 28 in total.*

86.6% of respondents disagreed with the Council's recommendation (or 85.7% adjusted for the two borough councillors who are also local electors). This level of total response represents 3.6% of the December 2015 electorate of the Moreton Hall Ward of Bury St Edmunds Parish (and, in terms of those who support the creation of a parish council, around 3.1%). The proposal affects the whole Parish, and its 2015 electorate was just under 29,000 electors.

All of the 194 residents and 2 borough councillors had an IP32 postcode, and were from the Moreton Hall area. A map showing the distribution of the "local resident" responses is set out overleaf – red dots indicate support for a new parish council:

A larger version of this map will be displayed at the meeting



NB Please note that the dots show the central point of a respondent's shared postcode, not their actual property.

This report covers responses directly relating to issue 7. However, it can be seen that some of the responses to issues 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8 are also pertinent in terms of qualitative evidence. And vice-versa.

Qualitative evidence in favour of a parish council i.e. disagreeing with the recommendation

In addition to confirming that they supported the creation of a parish council, the following comments were received from the electors disagreeing with the Council's recommendation:

- Your [Cllr Beckwith's] proposal is clear, and it is evident to me that the creation of a parish council for Moreton hall would strongly benefit the growth of this community.
- We strongly support the creation of a Parish council for Moreton Hall. We moved here from London in 1997. We have always felt Moreton Hall was quite distinct from Bury Town. Also in our experience many people who live in the town don't seem to feel that Moreton Hall is fully part of the town - a bit of an adjunct! We love Bury St Edmunds but Moreton Hall definitely feels different with its own set of issues and challenges which a dedicated parish council would be more responsive to and could deal with more effectively. We weren't aware of this proposal until very recently otherwise we would have voiced our support earlier.
- We support the creation of a Parish Council for Moreton Hall, as it would properly represent our ever expanding Estate. We wish to point out that we

have lived on Moreton hall since April 1980. Therefore we have witnessed, since its beginning, the overall poor performance of the various Councils' and Highway Agency decisions which seem unconcerned about its infrastructure, continued deterioration and pollution, to the advantage of the Developers and not the electorate.

- As a resident of Moreton Hall, I am of the opinion, that my area of the town, has much to gain by having local non-political persons looking after our interests. The town in general is not a recommendation in itself, from the amount of decay and lack of civil pride you see everywhere. Moreton Hall left in the hands of its residents will prosper more.
- As Moreton Hall continues to expand I believe it is time for it to become a parish.
- As Moreton Hall continues to expand, a separate parish is the most effective way of ensuring that local resident views are represented.
- Both my wife and I support the proposal for creating a Parish Council for Moreton Hall (MHPC), using the boundaries of the current borough council, Moreton Hall, ward. We believe that such a Parish Council would represent our views and requirements, more so than the central "Bury St Edmunds Town Council" (BTC), which has wider interests. We hope that you give this proposal serious consideration.
- Bury St Edmunds appears to me to be falling into much visible decay, it appears everywhere. In general, I see very little evidence of value from the rates. As a resident of Moreton Hall, I am of the firm opinion that my area of the town has much to gain by having local residents, free of party politics, looking after my/our interests. Local residents care more about Moreton Hall than any outside body does.
- Bury St Edmunds TC is primarily interested in the town centre and does very little for Moreton Hall. It would be better if Moreton Hall were to be able to provide its own parish services.
- Having read the way the council tax is split and taking into account the planned growth on the estate (housing numbers/school) we both support this proposal.
- I am writing to lodge our support for the proposal to create a new Parish Council covering the specific Moreton Hall area of Bury St Edmunds. In doing so this would transfer responsibility at this level of local government away from Bury St Edmunds Town Council across to the new Moreton Hall Parish Council. The area of Moreton has now grown to a sufficient size in population and economic activity, and has a community boundary and heart to warrant such a move. We would be grateful if our support for this idea be formally lodged.
- I am writing to say that I agree with the idea of Trevor Beckwith. Moreton Hall would benefit from its own parish council.
- I believe people live in Moreton Hall area should get involved more in decision making of where their money is being spent.

- I believe we the residents of Moreton Hall should have some independence as to how the council tax raised here should be spent. Our own parish council would go a long way towards this. SEBC should implement this
- I support the creation of a parish council for Moreton Hall. This is already a large area and it continues to expand. As a resident for the past 20 years I feel we need to have our own say in the way forward for our community
- I support the creation of a Parish Council on the Moreton Hall as I believe it will give the residents and workers of Moreton Hall a better say about what goes on in its community. The people that live on the estate understand the community and can make better decisions than the Town Council who cover a wide area and do not always fully consider the needs of a large estate. We have a mixture of housing types from social housing to six bedroom properties both privately owned and rented with a wide range of resident ages. A Parish Council can focus on what we really require and help to support the local clubs and activities.
- I think a parish council would enhance the cohesiveness of our community and also would be able to act more effectively on the behalf of the residents of Moreton Hall
- I would like to confirm that I do agree this ward should be created. The area is growing, with more residential properties to be built and I feel that the residents in the area should have more control over what is invested in their immediate surroundings and what happens.
- I would like to express my support for the creation of a parish council for Moreton Hall. I believe this would enable local residents to have a greater say in how this part of their council tax is spent. This is in line I believe with a greater drive for localism in government, enabling councils to better meet their residents' needs. It may also facilitate better lobbying for local issues, in particular, infrastructure issues which have been inadequately addressed so far.
- I would like to state my support for the creation of a parish council for Moreton Hall. This would give local residents a far greater voice in the determination of local initiatives rather than being part of Bury St Edmunds Town Council, which is too remote.
- If Moreton Hall has its own parish council, as a local resident I strongly believe that I would have a better chance to address any local issues in a much better democratic environment.
- It seems to me that those of us who live here should have control over our own affairs and the opportunity to decide what we need on this estate
- Moreton Hall should have its own say. It would be one of the bigger parishes so why not. The town has a different agenda to Moreton Hall. All houses and school should be in Moreton Hall.
- My husband and I wish to vote FOR a Parish Council for Moreton Hall - should have been in place years ago, bearing in mind the number of residents living here and more to come.

- Myself and my wife support the creation of a Parish Council for Moreton Hall. We feel it is an excellent initiative.
- On the information available we feel it is sensible to spend the money where it is raised and therefore support the creation of a Parish Council for Moreton Hall.
- Please reconsider your decision on the proposal in June 2016.
- I support the creation of a parish council for Moreton Hall, as I believe it would give local residents a say and input on issues and initiatives.
- The area is already large to warrant separate representation and local decision-making, and the addition of new houses, schooling and access to the A14 all make it essential that the area has more control over its own affairs.
- The Moreton Hall area is growing and will continue to for the foreseeable future, The are is now about the size of a village and still growing so should have a Parish Council in order to spend money, support (or not) planning applications etc, etc, in the interests of the community there. The Town Council does not really understand our community anymore.
- This would enable Moreton Hall to look after Moreton Hall we are as big if not bigger than most villages so we should be allowed to have our say on matters relating to Moreton Hall and not be tied in with town which has its own agenda. Also school and new houses should be in Moreton Hall. All the Rougham councillors want them for is that in times to come they can say Rougham does not need any more houses it just had 500 new ones which are nowhere near Rougham
- We are writing to express our support for the formation of a Parish Council for Moreton Hall. Our preference would be that the relevant % of my Council tax monies were granted to a newly created Parish Council for Moreton Hall, rather than Bury St. Edmunds Town Council (BTC), as at present.
- We consider that Moreton Hall should be separate from the Bury St Edmunds Parish with its own parish council. This single area of the town is currently 18.5% of the Bury St Edmunds parish and more development is pending. We consider that the business and housing development should be in the new Moreton Hall parish as opposed to Rougham, Rushbrooke and Great Barton Parish due to its proximity to Moreton Hall. Currently 3 councillors represent the Moreton Hall Ward and two more have been suggested to represent the new development area*, making a total of 5 out of 19 (17+2 new) councillors in total which is more than 25%! We therefore consider that the creation of a Moreton Hall parish council is necessary to maintain democracy across BOTH Moreton Hall and all the other areas within the current Bury St Edmunds parish.
- We have lived on the Moreton Hall estate for the last 28 years. In that time the estate has seen a vast expansion in housing. It is now the size of a large village or small town and continues to grow. We believe that Moreton Hall should have its own parish council as the estate has different issues to the centre of the town and therefore needs to be able to determine its own affairs for the benefit of its residents.

- We support the creation of a parish council for Moreton Hall as we believe this option would give us a better opportunity to address any issues more efficiently.
- We support the creation of a parish council for Moreton Hall to enable the residents and the area to have a voice for its community. It is detached from the day to day requirements of Bury Town Council and has different issues and will allow the community to decide its own affairs.
- We support the creation of a parish council for Moreton Hall. This will enable local residents to have more input and greater control over any new initiatives wanted by them.
- WE Support the creation of a Parish council for MORETON HALL , the sooner the better. We can then perhaps get a FAIR share of the cash we pay in.
- We wish to support the creation of a Parish Council for Moreton Hall because we feel that our local views are disregarded in favour of greater attention to the Town Centre of Bury St Edmunds
- We would love to see some of our council tax going back into our community & having a say in what improvements need doing.
- Support for parish council for Moreton Hall.
- I support the creation of a parish council for Moreton Hall because I believe the residents here would benefit from paying to their own parish council rather than to BTC. Moreton Hall is expanding rapidly and is a great community. We would like to have more control over our own affairs and how money is spent I think we are entitled to that and to spend that money for the improvement of facilities here in Moreton Hall. Not Great Barton or Rougham.

Qualitative evidence in favour of the Council's recommendation

The following comments were received from those supporting the Council's recommendation:

- I have lived on Moreton Hall since 1993 and I identify myself a part of a Town community not as a village parish. All my activities and entertainment are centred in Bury St Edmunds. I have always been well served by Bury St Edmunds Town council. On Moreton Hall we are served by 3 Councillors so we have the largest say on Council matters, and as Moreton Hall expands this influence can only grow. Also those people who have an allotment within Bury St Edmunds parish would have to give that up if we became a separate parish. There are those who say we could set our own precept and so all the money generated by Moreton Hall residents could be spent on Moreton Hall. But by the time all the costs of running a parish were taken in to account there would be no benefit from this, particularly now that our Town Councillors have locality budgets. Also the Town Precept is only £23.40 against the highest parish precept of £113, in fact I understand the average is £48. I have no wish to pay more and feel sure that we would have to were Moreton hall to have it's own parish. Also I do feel that the Town needs the support of all wards as we all

benefit from a thriving and lively town centre. If each ward were to become a separate parish this would put an unfair burden on certain individual wards for example Abbeygate would become solely responsible for the war memorial.

- Do not require a parish council. Too much bureaucracy already.
- I do not see any need for any additional tiers of government to represent Moreton Hall - i.e. the new Parish Council for Moreton Hall which I understand to be the alternative option.
- I believe we have been well served by the Town Council and it should continue its role for the benefit of all residents of the Town Parish. I do not believe that Moreton Hall would be better off as a parish. We all live in the Town boundary and should all share the common responsibility of the Town and its environs.
- I am against making Moreton Hall a parish council. It will isolate the estate from Bury and my experience with the Residents' Association suggests there is insufficient community spirit to support an active and effective PC. In essence I believe Moreton Hall is too big to be a Parish on its own and needs the support and involvement with the Town.
- I do not believe the additional administrative costs of a parish council would be a sensible solution
- I don't see the need to change. I'm more than happy to remain with St Edmundsbury Town Council.
- I have always lived within the borough of St Edmundsbury town council and wish to remain there.
- I have received a document that states that there is a proposal to create a parish council for Moreton Hall and asked by the author to email you with my opinion. I have been a resident of Moreton Hall for eight years. I do not support this proposal. I believe it to be socially divisive and driven by small mindedness. Moreton Hall derives many benefits from being part of Bury St Edmunds Town Council. The services in the area are second to none. Friends and family visiting are impressed by how well the area is kept. I do not believe that would be the case should this proposal be accepted.
- I strongly oppose the separate parishing of Moreton Hall. When I moved to this area with my family in 1993 we moved to Bury St Edmunds not a village called Moreton Hall. Although the area has some facilities of its own, in common with many other housing estates, I have never felt the area has an identity separate from the rest of the town. I feel that separate parishing would increase the amount of bureaucracy. Currently Moreton Hall ward has three town councillors. Were Moreton Hall to become a separate parish I understand there would need to be a minimum of six parish councillors. Is the small area of Moreton Hall any less represented by three councillors than six? There have been arguments that a separate parish would remove party politics from this tier of local government. However, I feel these are extremely naive: parish councils have their cliques just as town councils have their political groups. Bury Town Council's precept is still one of the lowest in St Edmundsbury despite recently having been increased. Residents of Moreton Hall benefit from the

grant-giving powers of the Town Council in just the same way as residents on the other estates within the town. Were Moreton Hall to become a separate parish, it would decrease the amount of money available for grants which everyone in the town benefits from.

- I wish to register my objection to a separate council for Moreton Hall. My reason for this is that yet another council would have to have a clerk and inevitable administration expenses, and therefore more of the available precept from the council tax payers is swallowed up in overheads. It is not relevant to this communication but I also strongly object to the Bury St Edmunds Town Council for the same reasons.
- We are absolutely against this proposal. Whatever Mr Beckwith suggests this is clearly an attempt to secure power for himself and adds another cost to local admin. Bury Council does an outstanding job managing our local affairs. To improve decision making in the area it would be far, far better to have things managed regionally, so a proper plan can more easily be realised. This region should encompass Sicklesmere, Rougham, Great Barton, Ingham, Westley, etc. Then planning for housing, local roads and many other things could be far better planned and implemented. Mr Beckwith has just guaranteed he will never get our vote again.
- Moreton Hall is considered to be in Bury St Edmunds and indeed is served well by the Town Council giving residents a chance to have their say at a local level and benefits greatly from the Locality grants that local Town councillor said are able to give. The Town council also works closely with many community groups and individuals.
- Moreton Hall should remain part of Bury Town Council area with the addition of the new houses included in Moreton Hall and in due course look at expanding the ward. There is no need for a separate Parish Council in what is essentially an urban area and an extension of the Town.

E. Borough/Town Councillors

Cllr Frank Warby, a local ward member for Moreton Hall Ward (and a Town Councillor) has supported the recommendation: *"Moreton Hall is well served by Bury Town Council and should remain with the Council."*

Cllr Clive Springett (a resident of Moreton Hall, and a Town Councillor for the Moreton Hall Ward) has also indicated his support: *"To create a separate parish would cost residents more money and would result in the same or less being provided for more money e.g. paying a separate town clerk, premises etc. The TC has spent a considerable amount of money around Moreton hall and councillors have a town locality budget to impact on areas that need addressing."*

No	Area or Properties Under Review	Parishes Directly Affected	Matter covered by final recommendation
13	Vision 2031 Strategic Site "North-East Haverhill"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Haverhill •Little Wratting •Kedington 	Whether or not existing parish governance arrangements should be amended in respect of new homes and/or employment land included in the strategic growth site.

Final Recommendation for Consultation

The boundary of Haverhill Parish be extended as indicated on consultation map H to incorporate the Vision 2031 Strategic Site "North-East Haverhill".

The new northern boundary for Haverhill which the Council suggests should be tested through consultation reflects the Vision 2031 growth sites and elements of the submissions of the town and parish councils and parish meeting. In addition, the Council has proposed the testing of the Town Council's suggestion that, since the green buffer for the North-East growth site by Calford Green is designated as park land, it would also make more sense to include this area within the Haverhill boundary.

In accordance with the recommendations for issue 26, if these proposals are agreed, the transferred parish areas would be temporarily added to the existing Haverhill East Ward, pending any review of town and borough council wards by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

The reason for the recommendation include:

1. **local preference and/or evidence** (*the principle of the proposal for issue 13 was supported by the town and parish councils and parish meeting in phase 1, and by many of the local electors who commented*);
2. **it potentially offers parish boundaries to reflect the identities and interests of local residents and businesses (current and future) and offer them more effective and convenient local government** (*the Town Council has suggested that administrative boundaries around Haverhill should reflect the patterns of everyday life and the ability of the respective parish and town councils to provide effective local government to new and existing electors. There was also consensus that the identity of all surrounding villages should be protected through the CGR*).

Five Year Electorate Forecast

For reference purposes, the latest total projected electorate change relating to the new homes in the Vision 2031 growth site (i.e. when fully developed) is 4125. Although hard to predict ahead of development starting, it is possible, for the purposes of this review, that around 500 electors could be living in the new homes by December 2020. As a baseline, the 2015 electorates of the affected parishes were:

- Little Wratting Parish: 101
- Kedington Parish: 1429
- Haverhill Parish: 18,031

Potential Amendments to Recommendation Raised in Consultation

While there is still general support for, or acceptance of, the main principle of the recommendation (i.e. that the new homes are in Haverhill Parish), Kedington

Parish Council and other local respondents have asked that the boundary change does not encompass the "green buffer" area around Calford Green, and the Working Party will need to consider this specific issue.

There were also mixed views on the recommendation to leave the Little Wrattling boundary by the A143 unchanged but, overall, a majority of respondents supported this course of action (or did not formally object).

Responses During Phase 2 Consultation

A summary of responses received in phase 1 can be read at: www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/cgr

A. Little Wrattling Parish Meeting

The Parish Meeting has not indicated that it wishes to change its phase 1 response which was that, on the southern part of the area to the south-east of the A143, there could possibly be some alterations to the boundary to take account of the 2031 document and the 'Wilsey' development but that the more northerly section of this south-east area needs to remain as an ongoing part of the village community. This is consistent with the recommendation as consulted upon.

B. Kedington Parish Council

"Kedington Parish Council acknowledges that where new homes have been proposed as part of the North East urban expansion of Haverhill on land within the Parish of Kedington, it is logical for alterations to the boundaries to be made for electoral purposes only.

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (Chapter 3) places a duty on principal authorities to have regard to the need to secure that any community governance for the area under review reflects the identities and interests of the local community in that area.

The area under review, Issue 13, is predominantly land within the Parish of Kedington, so the Parish Council is keen that any boundary change should reflect the identities and protect the interests of people who already live in the Parish. Vision 2031 Local Plan, Inspectors Report July 2014 talked about the foreshortening effect of the shallow valley between Calford Green and the proposed strategic development; the Planning Inspector was concerned to prevent the "*harmful loss of visual separation between Calford Green and the new development*", which he regarded would compromise the hamlet's distinctive rural character.

Haverhill 2031, points out that Haverhill will be a town that "*protects the identity and integrity of surrounding villages and hamlets*" and that "*careful planning is required to ensure that merging with the nearby settlements of Little Wrattling and Kedington (including Calford Green) does not occur.*"

It follows that the primary masterplan landscaping purpose of locating the large green area, to be developed as Country Park, is to form a green buffer to screen and help mitigate Calford Green from the adverse effects of the urban mass, by creating visual separation and protection.

Kedington Parish Council therefore requests that the land designated as Country Park and the existing open countryside space between the proposed Country Park

and the built development should remain as part of Calford Green within the Parish of Kedington in order to fulfil its long term landscaping function. We believe that these terms are appropriate to local people, their circumstances and reflect the specific need of our community.

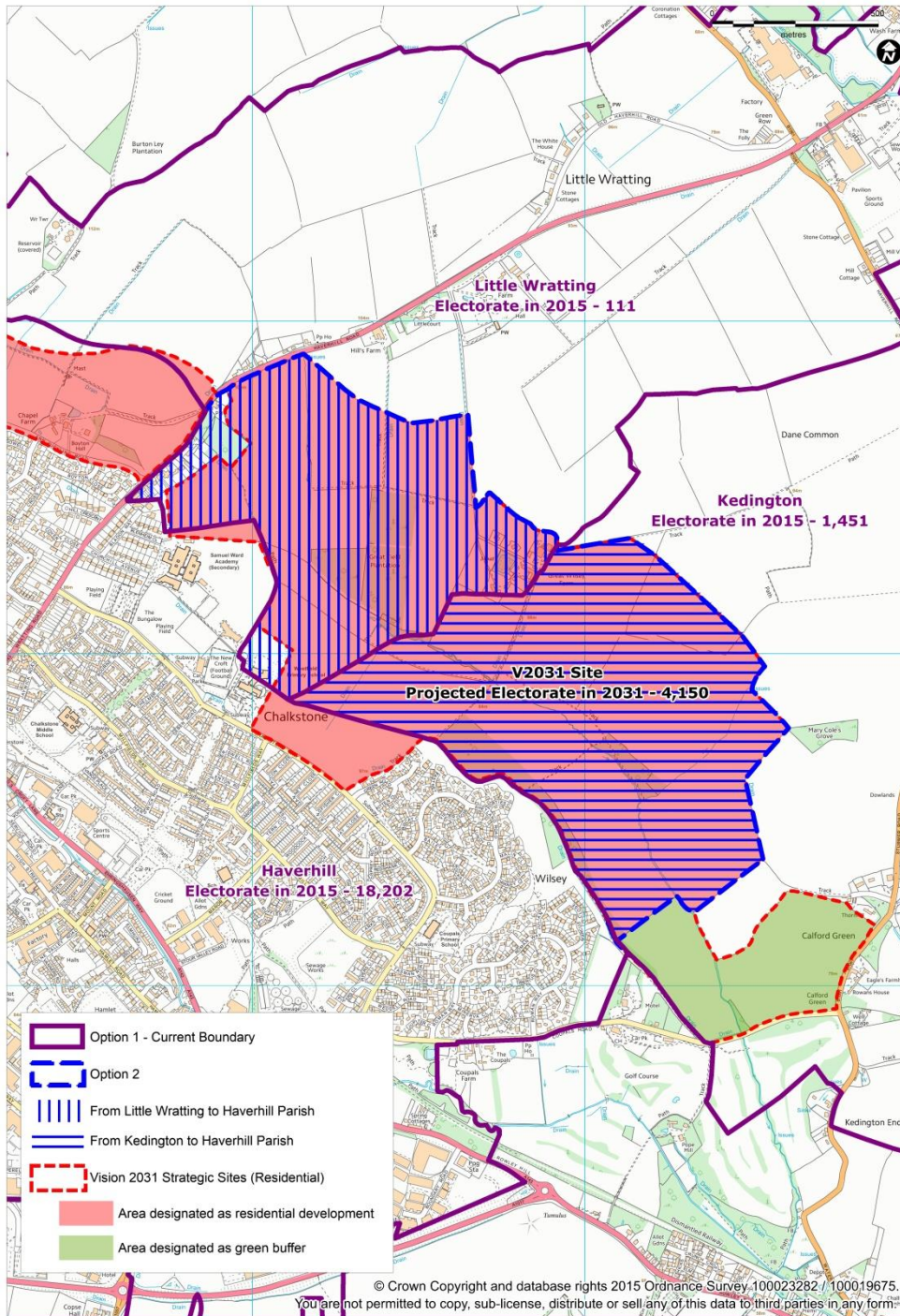
Department for Communities and Local Government, Local Government Boundary Commission for England guidelines for Community Governance Reviews, suggests strong boundaries should be clearly defined and tied to firm ground features. The existing woodland blocks, watercourse and hedgerows which define the edge of the built development, should form the new boundary between settlements, as this is the distinction between the Built development of the Town of Haverhill and the Rural form and character of the Hamlet, Calford Green which needs protection.

Kedington Parish Council believes this would be a fair compromise for both communities and such an amendment would not adversely affect the intended plans for development of the Country Park, its use, or its planned land management strategy as part of the proposed masterplan.

For the sake of clarity, the map used in the Phase 1 summary response of this Community Governance Review (is shown below), which clearly sets out the blue line proposed as "Option 2" as the new settlement boundary. All land beyond the blue hatched line should remain in the existing Parish of Kedington.

Kedington Parish Council requests that St Edmundsbury Borough Council give serious regard to this proposal and modifies the terms of reference accordingly."

[see overleaf for map and footnote]



Footnote to the Parish Council response

“As a footnote, St Edmundsbury Borough Council have not exactly been balanced about the results of feedback in their end of Phase 1 summary about what the options might or might not have been. What effectively had previously been asked is “do Kedington Parish Council want the boundary to move or do we want the hassle of Haverhill houses being built in Kedington Parish?”

The Phase 1 summary, which was used to prepare the final round of the Community Governance Review documents, issued a map showing two options, but did not label or appear to have discussed the merits of the second option. In fact, it has not been at all clear about exactly what the proposal or options are.

Therefore, in the first and second phase consultations, the Borough Council would, in the main, have only got one sided "yes" or "no" answers to their preferred proposal. The result being that they only support one option to move the boundary to the Calford Green side of the proposed Country Park. Option 2 looks like a hatched line which might have suggested a boundary around just the built development, which is what Kedington Parish Council is supporting."

Response from Officers to the Parish Council's Concerns

Consultation in phase 2 was designed to establish support for the final recommendation, although it was also highlighted that the specific proposal relating to the green buffer around Calford Green was being tested by the Borough Council through the process.

There was no option either recommended or preferred in the phase1 fact-finding consultation. Consultation materials provided a map of the current boundaries and the Vision 2031 growth site and, where options were discussed, asked whether, in respect of that new development, local people and organisations favoured: no change to boundaries; changing the boundary; creating a new parish council; or any other option. All responses received were then summarised for the Working Party to consider. The map included in the report to the Working Party (as set out above by the Parish Council) was to assist debate at that specific meeting, and showed the two main viewpoints expressed in the consultation, and summarised in the report: leave the current boundaries as they were (option 1); or move the boundary to include the residential element of the growth site in Haverhill Parish (option 2).

Having considered the report, the Council recommended that, for the purposes of consultation, option 2 be amended to include the green buffer area, which was a proposal of the Town Council in phase 1. This was reflected in the consultation materials and maps issued for phase 2 (including map H).

C. Haverhill Town Council

The final recommendation reflects the phase 1 submission of the Town Council, which argued that the CGR criteria would be best met by including the new homes and green buffer in Haverhill Parish (its full phase 1 submission can be read at www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/cgr).

During the phase 2 consultation, Haverhill Town Councillors have endorsed the final recommendation in relation to this issue. However, while councillors have chosen not to dispute it, the Council has observed that it does not believe that "the thin Little Wratting wedge into Haverhill on the A143 at the Fox public house" meets the CGR criteria for clarity.

D. Local Electors

Ten local residents responded to the Council during phase 2 about the final recommendation.

One, a resident of Kedington, wrote as follows:

"If "administrative boundaries around Haverhill should reflect the patterns of

everyday life and the ability of the respective parish and town councils to provide effective local government" then, there is absolutely no case for including the area designated as "country park" which sits within the current Parish of Kedington adjacent to Calford Green, to be moved to be included within the new Haverhill boundary.

*The reason given by St Edmundsbury Borough Council in its Community Governance Review final recommendation that it was "supported by the town and parish councils and parish meeting in phase 1, and by many of the local electors who commented" is unsubstantiated.**

Since the land designated as "Country Park" in the Haverhill NW masterplan is not intended to have any houses built upon it, it does not affect either new homes and/or employment land, there is no justifiable reason why such land should need to be re-allocated as "Haverhill" for electoral community governance arrangements.

If the "identity of all surrounding villages should be protected through the CGR", then the best way to protect the identity of land surrounding Calford Green is to maintain it as part of Calford Green within Kedington Parish. Moving the boundary of land around Calford Green actually threatens the future use of that land since it makes it more likely that it will be developed for housing in future as a further phased sprawl of "Haverhill".

Suggestion: That the recommendation should be changed and re-worded/boundary re-drawn to exclude the land designated as "Country Park" in the Masterplan. Country Park land should remain as part of Calford Green and within the Parish of Kedington."

**NB Given their concern, the context of this statement has been explained to the respondent separately - it relates only to the main principle of the recommendation i.e. to include the growth site in Haverhill Parish.*

Three electors from three properties in Little Wrattling Parish on Haverhill Road responded. Two of them supported the recommendation, commenting:

- "Having my house staying in Little Wrattling is what I would like, so the new boundary changes would be OK. I have lived here 17 years and the house being in Lt Wrattling was the reason I moved here. I hope this proposed boundary goes ahead and the properties that are in Lt Wrattling keep their Lt Wrattling addresses."
- "I support the recommendation as I bought this house because it is in Lt Wrattling. I wish to remain Lt Wrattling as it is a village location. I do not wish to change any postal address as this could affect the price of my house and would result in me having to communicate this to lots of people. Also I prefer being part of a village community. Thanks for your help in this matter."

However, the other Haverhill Road elector disagreed with the recommendation, arguing: *"I do not support this recommendation as the proposal suggests that my home will remain part of Lt Wrattling but decisions on development will be taken by the Haverhill Parish and therefore my views will not be represented or at best will be greatly diluted by the size of the overall electorate. The majority of whom will not be affected in any material way. My own preference would be for the*

boundary to remain unaltered as I feel my views on the proposed development would be better represented by the current electorate in Lt Wratting, Withersfield and Kedington Parishes."

Another elector of Little Wratting (further up the A143) responded to support the recommendation (but made no other comment). However, five residents of Kedington either directly disagreed with the recommendation and/or used the consultation to express their objection to the new housing development. Their reasons/comments were:

- "Having lived in Kedington now for over 4 years, we have already had a large development of housing built where the old hospital was. It is fairly evident that the proposed scheme would have a major detrimental impact on our village, by increasing traffic, lessening our rural appeal, creating a school problem, & impacting on other amenities by the sheer volume of housing proposed & the huge amount of people in those houses, bringing an enormous amount of service industries & other visitors through the village. Plus, noise levels would rise, wild life would decrease, & the countryside would be blighted with these horrific low quality new houses that developers build these days, often totally out of keeping with their environment, which in this case is our village & Calford Green, a beautiful little hamlet. WE do not want this development here!
- I disagree to the change in boundaries simply to accommodate a new housing estate. The only reason I can see for change is financial and would like to know how Kedington will benefit from the changes?
- At stage 1 of the consultation process for the proposed development at NE Haverhill it became apparent that a boundary change was envisaged, and we asked how to comment on this. We were told that this would not be part of any consultation process as boundary changes could be made by councils without this 'WHEN NECESSARY'.

We are disturbed to read that the proposed boundary changes between Haverhill and Kedington 'were agreed by parish councils and many local electors'. Our property lies on the line of the proposed boundary and we are arguably the most affected residents, and we most certainly did not knowingly support this change. And neither did Kedington Parish Council - the most affected parish. Should the land bordering us become part of Haverhill, Kedington will no longer have a realistic say in what happens to it.

Such a boundary change would break former agreements of not merging Haverhill with surrounding settlements and having a meaningful buffer between the two, also, of leaving settlements with historic housing within their historical setting.

We have unease about the way that the developers have on occasion contributed towards the proposed changes. In our opinion some 'errors' would have been very helpful to the developers' proposals (we list key points only)

- 1) The effective airbrushing of Calford Green from initial plans by overprinting with a map key lent weight to their statement that there were only open fields here ...so there would be no objections to a

development,

- 2) The request at the 2nd Examination to take out a stage in the planning process after the developers' submission of a google earth type masterplan. This was appearing to go unchallenged until we pointed out that there were several major errors, with a significant named road in completely the wrong place, and at right angles to the actual road.

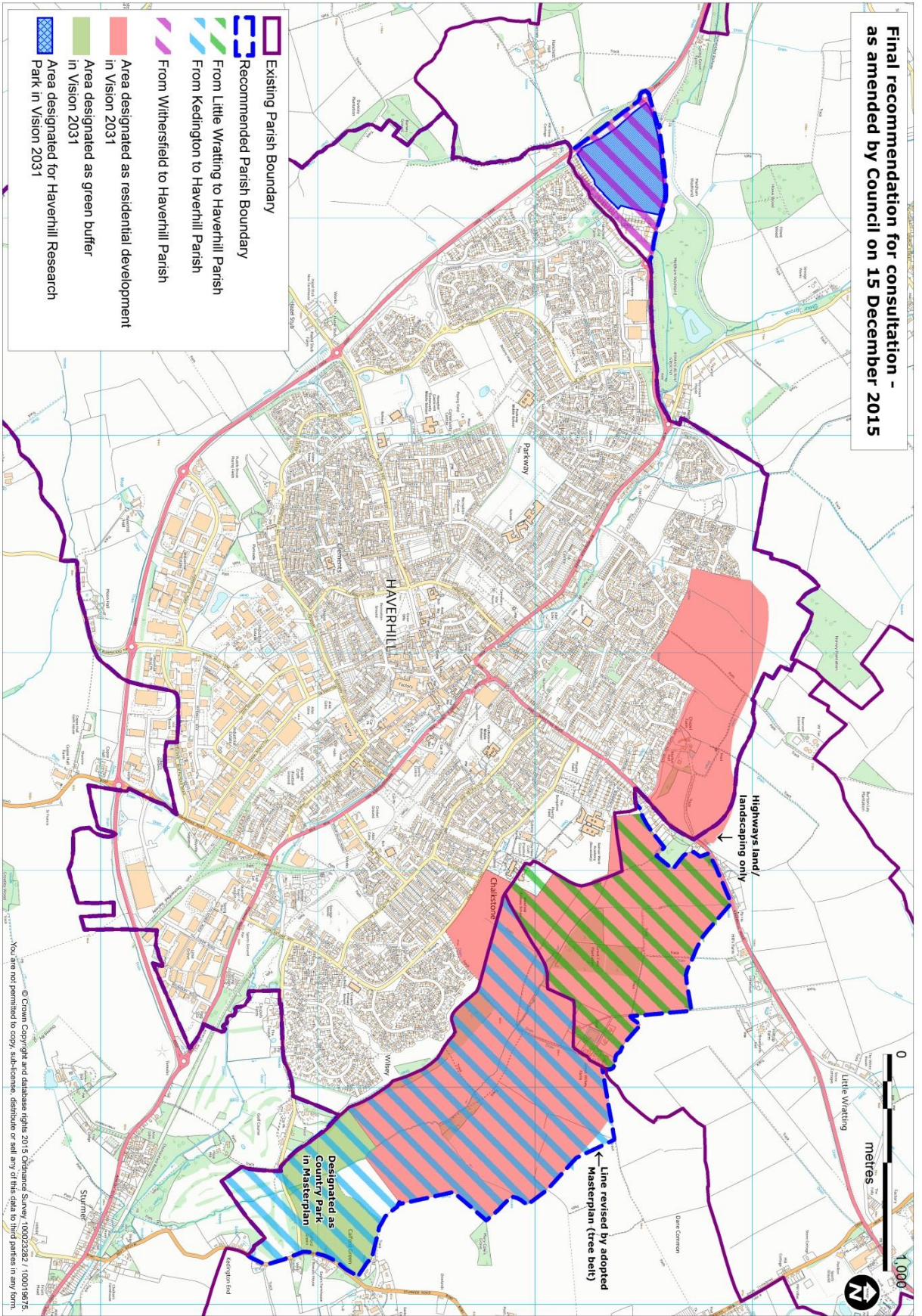
In addition , despite the assurances of two Examinations, the developers still push for the part of the development at Calford Green 'to integrate and form an urban extension to Haverhill'

Also, in our opinion, much play has be made at consultation of less significant issues, whilst more important issues would appear not discussed, but yet integrated, as if by stealth (of 'the good day to deliver bad news variety') Some statements from the developers seem to have been economical with the truth, or at best ambiguous.

We should like to know which parishes and individuals did in fact support the boundary changes. If it wasn't us who was it?"

Consultation Map H – Issues 12-14

Final recommendation for consultation -
as amended by Council on 15 December 2015



No	Area or Properties Under Review	Parishes Directly Affected	Matter covered by final recommendation
14	Vision 2031 Strategic Site "Hanchett End" (Haverhill Research Park) <i>(All of the area bounded by the A1017, A1307 and Hanchett End)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Haverhill •Withersfield 	Whether or not existing parish governance arrangements should be amended in respect of new homes and/or employment land included in the strategic growth site.

Final Recommendation for Consultation

The boundary of Haverhill Parish be extended as indicated on consultation map H to incorporate the "Hanchett End (Haverhill Research Park)" Vision 2031 Strategic Site.

Consultation map H can be found in the report for issue 13 above.

The new northern boundary for Haverhill which the Council suggests should be tested through consultation reflects the Vision 2031 growth sites and elements of the submissions of the town and parish councils and parish meeting. In accordance with the recommendations for issue 26, if these proposals are agreed, the transferred parish areas would be temporarily added to the existing Haverhill West Ward, pending any review of town and borough council wards by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

The reasons for the recommendation include:

1. **local preference and/or evidence** *(There was no consensus over issue 14 in phase 1, with Withersfield Parish Council and most existing local electors who responded opposed to what is being recommended but the Town Council and the Research Park operator providing evidence that the growth site should be in Haverhill. Therefore the Borough Council believes local preference should be tested further through consultation on this final recommendation to obtain more evidence);*
2. **it potentially offers parish boundaries to reflect the identities and interests of local residents and businesses (current and future) and offer them more effective and convenient local government** *(the Town Council has suggested that administrative boundaries around Haverhill should reflect the patterns of everyday life and the ability of the respective parish and town councils to provide effective local government to new and existing electors. There was also consensus that the identity of all surrounding villages should be protected through the CGR).*

N.B. Changes to parish boundaries would not normally affect existing postal addresses, postcodes, school catchment areas or insurance premiums.

Five Year Electorate Forecast

The 2015 electorate of Withersfield Parish was 443 (including established homes at Hanchett End and new ones within the Research Park) and, under the current boundaries, this might be expected to rise to over 550 by December 2020 when the growth site is fully developed. Around 300 of these electors in 2020 would transfer to Haverhill Parish under the consultation recommendation, which is likely to leave around 250 electors in Withersfield Parish.

Potential Amendments to Recommendation Raised in Consultation

There remains no consensus on this issue, albeit the consultation has achieved its objective of obtaining more evidence to support the final decision. Withersfield Parish Council and the majority of local respondents (particularly those in affected properties) have disagreed strongly with the recommendation, wanting to see no change in the boundary. Haverhill Town Council continues to support the change, as do around a third of the local respondents (many of whom are from Withersfield Village).

Responses During Phase 2 Consultation

A summary of responses received during the phase 1 consultation can be read at: www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/cgr. This summary does not include a letter received from Withersfield Parish Council in December 2015 expressing concerns about a change to its boundary.

A. Withersfield Parish Council

"Introduction

The details connected with the first round of consultation associated with the CGR, particularly as they affected Withersfield parish, were notified too late to be formally addressed at a Parish Council meeting (due to the bi-monthly cycle and sequencing of meetings). It was therefore determined that in the first instance the Parish Council would raise awareness of the Review through messages in the Parish magazine, Withersfield News. Parishioners were also asked to make their views known via individual responses to the on-line survey. It is known that those who responded (predominantly from the areas most affected by the proposed boundary change, ie Hanchett End, Barsey Close, and the Arboretum Estate), indicated their wish to remain in Withersfield Parish. In addition, Parish Councillors are aware of representations made to Borough Councillor, Jane Midwood, all of which have exhorted her to ensure that the residences which would be taken out of Withersfield Parish if the Review proposals go ahead, remain in the Parish.

Public meeting

The Parish Council also decided at the time of the first stage of the Review that subsequent to this it would continue to update parishioners through Withersfield News and to hold a public meeting in March to explore the issues further. In addition, residents of the Parish were encouraged to notify the Parish Council of their views via email or letter; the latter produced a small number of responses, evenly split between parishioners who were of the view that the boundary changes were sensible and those, who much more vehemently, were of the opinion that they should not take place.

The public meeting was held on 21 March. This was publicised by distribution of a draft notice and agenda, a flyer providing details of the proposals, and a notice placed on the parish noticeboard, together with, around the time of the meeting, an A-board placed on Town Green. The meeting was attended by over 30 people, drawn from Hanchett End, Barsey Close, and the Arboretum Estate, and from the main village area. Five Parish Councillors were also present, and County Councillor Mary Evans, together with the Parish Clerk.

The meeting commenced with a presentation on the Review by a Parish Councillor, and then moved into a panel-led discussion (the panel consisting of a mixture of councillors and residents), with many contributions also being made from the floor.

Participants were encouraged to contribute on the basis of the way in which the decisions will be made by St Edmundsbury Borough Council, ie community identity and effective local government. The following provides a synopsis of the main points made.

Community Identity

The residences of Hanchett End and Barsey Close were part of the Parish of Withersfield from the time of their construction owing to their closer proximity to St Mary the Virgin, Withersfield's Parish Church, than the Parish church of Haverhill. They were, when built, distinct from Haverhill and it is only recently that they have been fringed by housing estates that have grown north and west from the town and close to the ring road. Consequently, the residents, many of whom have lived in the area for some time, feel part of the community of Withersfield. They receive the Parish magazine and participate in a range of community activities, such as the village fete, and make use of the facilities provided by the Village Hall, for instance playing bridge and bowls. It was quite clear from the contributions made by residents during the public meeting that they identified strongly with Withersfield Parish and wished to maintain their status as Withersfield parishioners. It was also clear from the comments made that residents, particularly in Hanchett End and Barsey Close, have made, and continue to make, valued contributions to the life of Withersfield. The whole parish, as currently constituted, was said to be 'one big family'.

The Arboretum is a much newer community that is only now beginning to form its identity. Nonetheless, residents who contributed at the public meeting clearly felt an affinity with the parish expressing a view that they wanted their children to grow up in a village-like atmosphere that the Parish, because of its considerably smaller scale than Haverhill, can provide. Residents of this estate indicated that they had not been made to feel welcome by Haverhill Town Council and expressed their appreciation of being invited to contribute their views to the Parish Council. The Arboretum residents are being integrated into the Withersfield Parish, for example, through the Parish Magazine now being delivered to the houses in the Arboretum by volunteers from the new residences. The village of Withersfield is beginning to benefit from the younger adults and their children now occupying the residences being built on the Arboretum site and there is the opportunity to move towards a more balanced community identity for the whole Parish. It was also pointed out that the removal of residences from Withersfield Parish could put current village activities in jeopardy if the sense of identity currently felt by residents in Hanchett End, Barsey Close and The Arboretum was taken away.

Effective local government

Residents from both Hanchett End/ Barsey Close and the Arboretum who attended the public meeting clearly articulated their view that Withersfield Parish Council provided them with more effective local government than Haverhill because their voices could be heard more clearly in the smaller community. The point was made that the proposed boundary changes would remove around 50% of electors from

Withersfield Parish whilst increasing those in Haverhill by only around 1%; it was therefore thought that any argument that the interests of those affected would be better served by being within Haverhill was spurious.

If these residents were to be removed from the Parish it would have a considerable impact on the precept. This would lead to a reduction in the quality of local government provided by Withersfield Parish council, reducing its effectiveness.

Conclusions

The vast majority of the views expressed to the Parish Council, either by email or letter submission or at the public meeting, indicated that the residents of Hanchett End and Barsey Close, and perhaps surprisingly from a Parish Council perspective, also of the Arboretum Estate, wished to remain in Withersfield Parish. Conversely, only a very few residents had expressed the view that the boundary change should go ahead. Withersfield Parish Council therefore opposes those proposals affecting Withersfield Parish contained in the CGR on the following grounds:

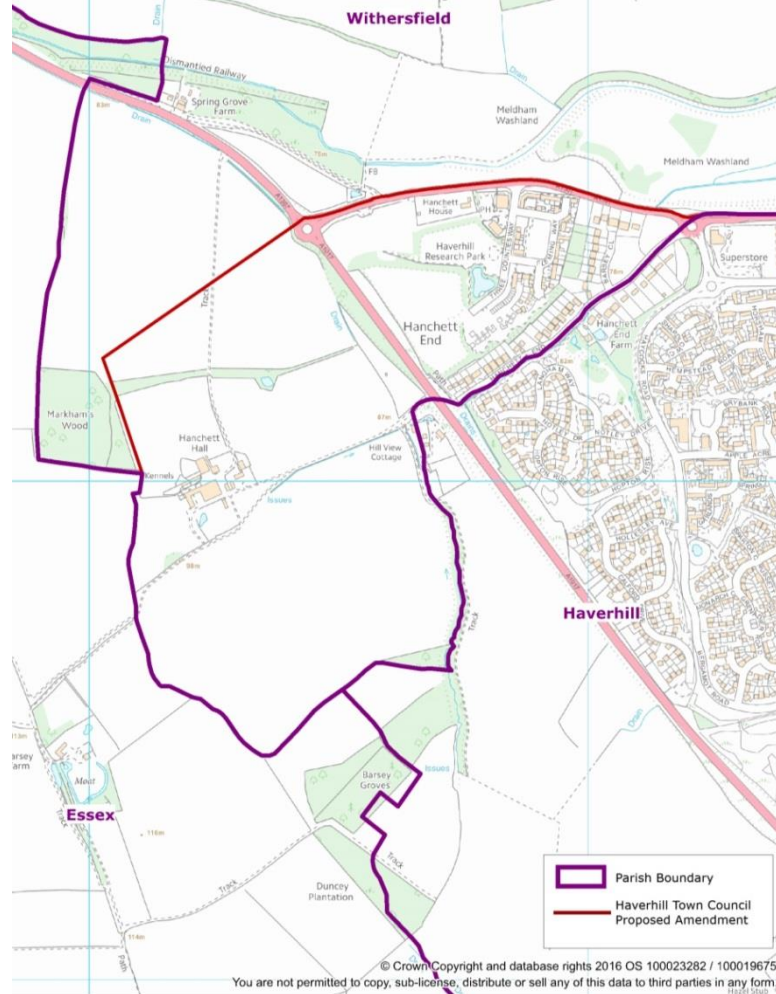
- A majority of residents making contact with the Parish Council had made it clear that the present boundary should be maintained;
- The presence of geographical boundaries is acknowledged, but cultural and identity boundaries are far more important;
- Concern about the impact on the amount of precept Withersfield Parish Council would receive in the future if the proposals go ahead, and the consequent effect on its ability to provide effective local governance.”

B. Haverhill Town Council

The final recommendation reflects the phase 1 submission of the Town Council, which argued that the CGR criteria would be best met by including the research park and homes at Hanchett End in Haverhill Parish (its full phase 1 submission can be read at www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/cgr).

During the phase 2 consultation, Haverhill Town Councillors have endorsed the final recommendation in relation to this issue, except to suggest that the boundary is drawn from the Spirit of Enterprise roundabout west, curving south, to meet the Essex border where it turns sharp south, adjacent to Hanchett Hall, as they had proposed in the phase 1 consultation. An illustration of this proposed amendment is shown overleaf:

Town Council alternative boundary suggestion



Note of Clarification

Although a similar idea to that above is in the published phase 1 response of the Town Council, no stakeholder in the review has been consulted on it by the Borough Council in phase 1 or 2, as the focus has been on the research park and Hanchett End. Therefore the views of Withersfield Parish Council and any affected electors about this specific idea are not known. The Town Council has also clarified that, if this idea does not get support, its fall-back position is to endorse the recommendation of the Borough Council to go to the roundabout and follow the drainage ditch south down to join the existing boundary at Hill View Cottage.

The Town Council has also asked that, if agreed, any new boundary does not cut through the centre of the Hanchett End roundabout, as this is the location of the Spirit of Enterprise sculpture.

C. Local Electors and Businesses

The Council has heard directly from 73 current residents during phase 2 of the review and this evidence should be read in conjunction with the Parish Council's own consultation results. Two of these respondents have also identified themselves as Town or Parish Councillors as well as residents.

In addition, there was a response (opposing the recommendation) from a former resident of Hanchett End now living in Royston. An anonymous response which

could not be verified as genuine was also received during the consultation, supporting the recommendation.

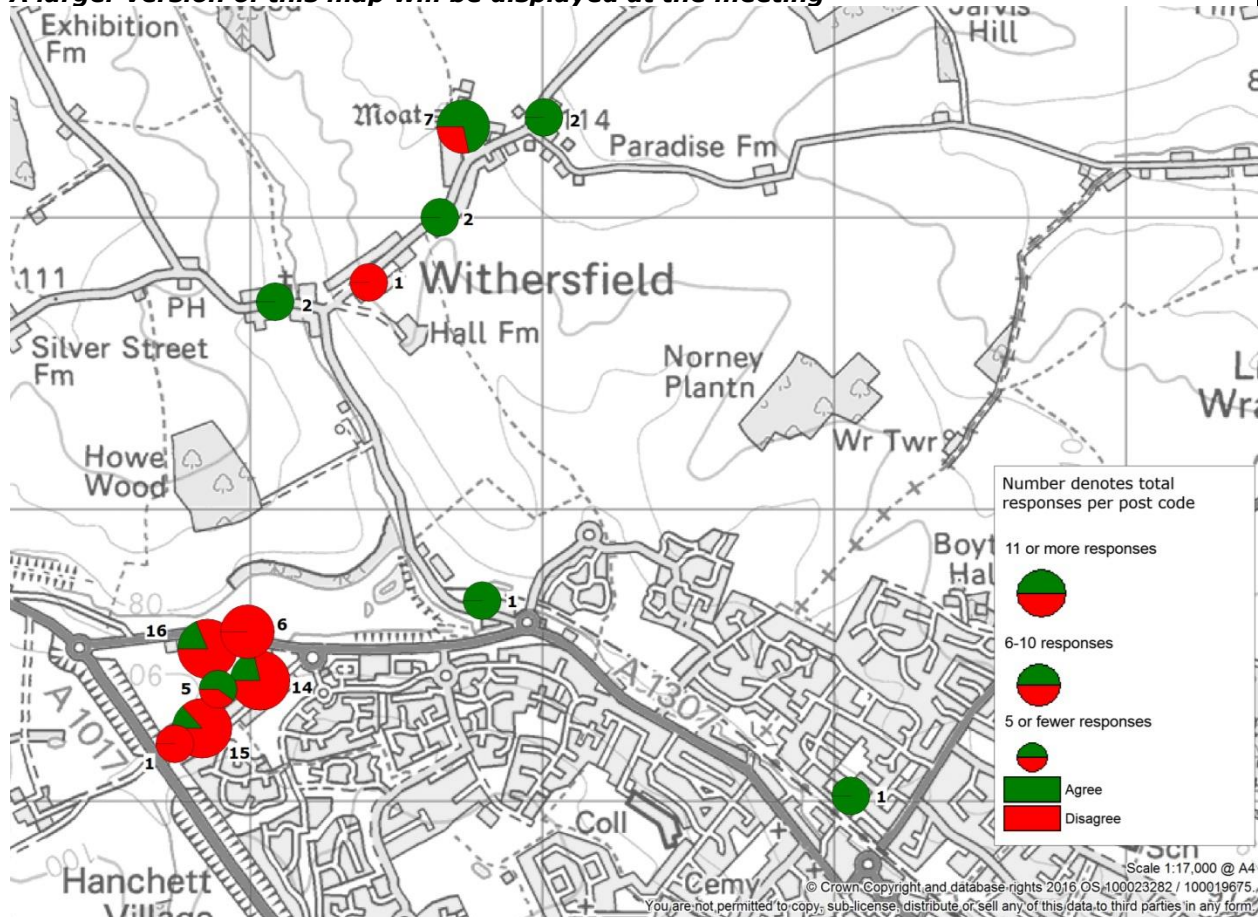
The 73 responses break down as follows:

	Agree - transfer to Haverhill	Disagree – retain in Withersfield
Postal responses	11	46
Online responses	13	3
	24 (33%)	49 (67%)

Around 150 directly affected electors were written to in February (based on the register at that time), so the level of postal response represents the views of over a third of those contacted in total (and this is an average, as the level of responses from the new homes was relatively lower for than the established properties).

A better sense of what this response signifies is given by plotting the responses the Council received onto a map, by their postcode:

A larger version of this map will be displayed at the meeting



NB Please note that the dots show the central point of a respondent's shared postcode, not their actual property.

It can therefore be seen that a large proportion of the directly affected electors who responded disagreed with the recommendation and wish to remain in Withersfield Parish. This was particularly the case in relation to Hanchett End and Barsey Close where the majority of affected households have responded to the consultation and there is a very strong consensus against change.

Qualitative evidence

To support the quantitative analysis above, the following comments were received from respondents.

Those **disagreeing** with the recommendation (and arguing for no change to the boundary) said:

- The residents of this part of Withersfield- especially Hanchett End and Barsey Close, but also more recently the Arboretum - support village events in Withersfield and therefore feel part of the parish of Withersfield. Historically there have been members of the parish council from this part of Withersfield (Hanchett End). They therefore clearly identify themselves with the parish of Withersfield - NOT Haverhill. Also I believe that the loss of this part of the parish would make it difficult for the parish council of Withersfield (on which I sit as a Councillor) to maintain the services it currently provides to the parish without a significant rise in the council tax. This would make it less likely that the Withersfield parish council could continue to provide as effective local government that it currently does.
- We think the present boundaries work very well and make for a larger community coming together. With the addition of the arboretum estate we would have a much broader balance of community. At present first time buyers and older people wishing to enjoy village life and partake in the activities cannot afford the properties here in the village and the new development offers them a chance to be part of the village life. We need young people to balance the ageing population we have here and we have a lot to offer them. Our Church congregation is supported by residents from Hanchett End as is Bowls Club, village fete and cricket at the sports field. After the recent public consultation meeting, there was full support for the boundaries to stay as they are and make Withersfield a well-balanced complete community
- I have supported Withersfield activities since I moved here approximately 11 *[or 17 – not possible from form to distinguish]* years ago and so consider myself, and feel part of, the Withersfield community. During this period I have not supported any activities in Haverhill. Barsey Close Residents' Association Ltd holds its AGM in the Village Hall. I do not accept that the proposed change will bring about "more effective and convenient local government". In fact I believe it will bring about the opposite. We live in a community we can associate with, run by councillors that we know. The proposal will decimate that community, and spirit, for both those left in the village and those who against their wishes may be removed from the village.
- In the recent past we (residents of Hanchett End) have been asked to vote twice on being in Withersfield Parish, or out. The result on both occasions being an overwhelming majority to stay in Withersfield. I thought I lived in a democratic country and do not understand why we are now being asked again. Clearly the residents' decision is not being accepted and I expect whatever we (Hanchett End and Arboretum) vote for the Council will decide to change the boundary. I request that voting figures are published.
- I feel very strongly against the extension of the boundary of Haverhill Parish to

include my postcode. I enjoy being part of the Withersfield Parish as I have grown up in a village and enjoy being part of a small community. I have attended my functions in Withersfield and have watched my daughter at many horse riding events at Hall Farm.

- I feel as though this proposal has the objective of unfairly removing me from a community which I value very much. As a child, I attended horse riding lessons at Hall Farm for several years, I have enjoyed involvement in village fetes and feel privileged to be part of a community with such a strong sense of togetherness. I hope that from this you can understand why I wish to remain within the Withersfield parish boundary.
- We specifically bought this new built property to be part of the Withersfield community. The property value also reflected in its postcode and as being part of Withersfield not Haverhill. We had to pay a premium for this. Changing the boundary will negatively affect our property value (which will mean Taylor Wimpey mis-sold properties under the Withersfield pretence). We wish to be part of the Withersfield community.
- If the boundaries are changed, our property value will decrease. Having been sold the property, paying a premium for it, not being part of Haverhill, I feel strongly about not changing the boundaries. We like the Withersfield community. Please do not cause grounds for legal action about changing boundaries, as this will mean we have been mis-sold an idea.
- We have only recently moved in and after to change all address details we would now need to do this again. Surely this decision should have been made before you allowed people to move in?
- We very definitely want to remain within the Parish of Withersfield. We participate in all of the village activities that raise money towards the upkeep of the church and village hall. Our social life is based around the village – nearly all our friends live there. We are now sandwiched between Hanchett Village and the Arboretum with no community or centre. We need to be part of the parish and village. The village is small and would have huge problems maintaining the church and hall without our contributions of help at fundraising events and from our council tax. It is great to know that the village is the focal point of our local community. It would be very sad for us and future residents of Hanchett End if we are taken out of the parish and moved into Haverhill. A lack of community is isolating for people. Withersfield is a caring community we want to remain part of.
- Historically Hanchett End has always been part of Withersfield. I think we should maintain that community feeling.
- Remain in Withersfield.
- The Haverhill Research Park, so called, will never have any research buildings on it, even the signs for it that were built in the entrance walls have been covered over. There will only ever be houses on the site. The farmland that it's built on was in the Parish of Withersfield, including Hanchett End, and should stay that way. Now that the houses have been built behind us, no

property will sell in Hanchett End. Perhaps we should be looking for compensation.

- Withersfield has always been a village and not a town! Look at Cherry Hinton. It was a lovely village until Cambridge took it over. Now it is stricken with vandalism and social unrest. I do not wish this to happen with Withersfield.
- Withersfield has always been a village and not a town. My wife and I lived in Cherry Hinton once a village but now a suburb of Cambridge for 18 years. Cherry Hinton is now stricken with vandalism and social unrest. I do not wish this to happen with Withersfield!
- I bought my house in the understanding it was in Withersfield not Haverhill. As the house was advertised.
- We bought our new build house in January 2015 in Withersfield. Now one year later the proposed area will become Haverhill. We have great concern that our house value will be affected.
- I am concerned that the change in boundaries could affect the value of my property and cause an increase in my insurances.
- I would prefer to stay as part of Withersfield. I am a runner and do most of my training runs in and around Withersfield. Also was made to feel very welcome at the village fete.
- I would prefer to stay within the Withersfield boundary as I feel a stronger sense of identity to the Withersfield community.
- We would like the house to be the same as when we bought it. It may also mean paying legal fees to change the address on land registry and deeds of house.
- We were sold the house as part of the Withersfield Parish and we would like it to stay in the same constituency
- Without serious consideration of an increase in infrastructure (including redevelopment of the train line to Haverhill); fair allocation of funding to the villages the land will be taken from; and further information on the effect on Council Tax, services, insurance, etc, to residents of affected areas; this plan should not go ahead at present.
- We moved to be part of a village community with our young family. I had a particular interest/wish to participate in the village cricket club. We feel that moving to a village location is key to the upbringing of our family; and house prices on the research park are more affordable than existing village properties. It is sad/unfair that a "postcode lottery" is being considered/or that a family should be discriminated/priced out of participating in village life.
- I would like the parish boundaries to remain as they currently are. We only recently moved to Withersfield because it is far more desirable than a town. We wanted to live in a village for many reasons. We have a baby and wanted

to raise her in a village environment where we could involve us as a family in the community. We were hoping to attend village functions as a family. I am so disappointed and upset this may not happen. We moved here to Withersfield because we wanted to live in Withersfield and a few months in, it may change to being a town instead of a village! It is extremely distressing that the large appeal of us choosing to move here may not be there after just a matter of months. We moved here to live in a village, and moved to be part of a village community, to be involved in Withersfield Village, we moved here so our child could grow up in a village and able to go to a village school in a few years' time. I would really like to remain a part of Withersfield Village! Thank you.

- Just take the Research Park and leave us alone.
- I would prefer the existing boundaries to remain unchanged.
- I would prefer the boundaries to stay the same and no changes made.
- I wish to stay in the parish of Withersfield.
- Stay within Withersfield Parish.
- I would like to remain in Withersfield Parish.
- Remain in Withersfield Parish.
- It states that the proposed change offers "more effective and convenient local government". Strongly disagree – most effective and convenient is the present situation.
- All of this costly and unnecessary proposal to increase the number of electorate in Haverhill by a mere 300. The effect of that number in Withersfield is to more than halve the number of electorate. This is change for the sake of change and the benefit of the Research Park Operator who has singularly failed and will in my opinion continue to fail in their stated intention of developing a research park.
- My wife and I support village activities either by donation or participation and fully feel part of, and are accepted as, as members of the community.

Those **agreeing** with the recommendation (and arguing for a change to the boundary) said:

- 1. The wishes and priorities of the residents of the village of Withersfield are significantly different to those of Hanchett End and Barsey Close which is now an urban-extension of the town of Haverhill. 2. The fundamental geographical split between the village of Withersfield and the more recent developments of Hatchet End, Barsey Close and The Arboretum makes for a very different set of requirements and expectations by the residents of the different groups. 3. The decision by Withersfield Parish Council to not support the recommendation was made on the basis of 2 councillors only voting at the recent Council meeting after a village meeting on the subject. 4. The opposition to the

recommendation is largely finance-driven. A smaller parish will probably result in at least a halving of the precept (£4-5K) from that which is likely if Hanchett End, Barsey Close and the Arboretum are included (probably >£10K). With the parish council already sitting on substantial reserves (£20K) and reluctant to spend them it seems un-necessary to increase these funds further through additional precept income. In the situation which will result if the recommendation is approved it will have to cut its cloth more prudently.

- The area which now includes a large housing development which is at least as populous as the village proper - i.e. the Arboretum. Whilst Hanchett End retains a rural character its location tucked between Haverhill and the new research park effectively means that it is divorced from the village and is not longer a practical part of Withersfield. I doubt whether any (or very few) residents of the new housing development consider themselves to be part of Withersfield.
- 1. As Haverhill has expanded, the housing at Hanchett and End and Barsey Close, and the new development at The Arboretum, have become joined onto the town, and the nature of the area has changed from scattered rural settlement to suburban development. 2. If Recommendation for Issue 14 is not approved, then once the development of The Arboretum is completed the population of the 'urban' element of Withersfield would be larger than the population of the village. I find it hard to see community of interest and, on numbers alone, the interests of the 'urban' could take precedence. The interests of the inhabitants of the new developments would not be the same as those of the village (neither more nor less important, just different!). 3. Do residents of The Arboretum really identify with Withersfield? And, of equal importance, do the residents of Withersfield really think that The Arboretum is part of the village? I would suggest that Withersfield has more in common with its neighbouring villages than with what is in effect the western development of Haverhill.
- Housing at Hanchett End, The Arboretum and the planned Research Park are perceived to be part of the town of Haverhill, the boundary should be redrawn to reflect this. Withersfield should then remain a separate village, not including the developments on the edge of its current parish boundary.
- I do not support this recommendation for a number of reasons. As a resident of the village of Withersfield I strongly feel that the boundaries should remain as they are. I am inclined to think this as the residents of the Arboretum and the existing residents of Withersfield do not share similar interests. For example, members of the Arboretum may feel that parking is an issue whereas that particular issue is not prevalent in Withersfield. Speeding on the other hand is at the forefront of people's minds in Withersfield but this may not be a problem if residents living in the Arboretum. Broadband and high speed internet is another issue which has large potential to create problems. For years residents of Withersfield have worked tirelessly to get better and faster internet access without success. If internet providers were to provide high speed internet to the Arboretum, this would count as Withersfield having high speed internet access when in actual fact we have simply been ignored. Many people heavily rely on the Internet to carry out everyday functions whether that be online grocery shopping or working from home, it is absolutely vital that the whole of Withersfield is provided with high speed internet. It also has an effect on house

pricing, people trying to sell their houses find it considerably harder to sell their houses if they have poorer internet speeds. Therefore if the boundaries were to change and the Arboretum was to receive high speed internet, the original residents would be left stranded with the same poor quality of internet as installing high speed internet cables in the Arboretum would be considerably easier due to it being a new development. The proponents of the boundary reform argue that members of the Arboretum want to feel part of a community. However, there is over two kilometres of agricultural land separating the existing village of Withersfield and the Arboretum with no direct route linking the two. It would be impossible for both sets of residents to feel part of each other's community with such a large area of land between us. A solution would simply be to allow the residents of the Arboretum to form their own community and participate in activities that they feel should occur in that community, whether that be having their own local news leaflet or organising events within their own community which they feel suit their community.

- 'Hanchett End (Haverhill Research Park) is geographically part of the town of Haverhill due to the town's expansion and certainly not part of the village of Withersfield. This is made even more obvious by the fact that Hanchett End is on the opposite side of the A1307 from Withersfield. The A1307 being the main artery road from Cambridge to Haverhill making it an obvious and far more relevant parish boundary than the historical one that is still in place but very much out of date.
- Hanchett End is part of the 'town' of Haverhill not part of the 'village' of Withersfield
- The 'Haverhill Research Park' is very much part of Haverhill - the clue is in the name. It would be completely wrong to keep it within the parish of Withersfield. Withersfield is a country village with a church and pub, not a new housing estate and business park. It is vital to keep Withersfield's village identity, not for it to be swallowed up into the town of Haverhill.
- The road link between Withersfield village and Hanchett End and the Arboretum is a lane with no pavements and cars travelling at the national speed limit or a 2 km footpath over fields that has no crossing point on the main road and the speed limit is 40 mph. The residents of Hanchett End and the Arboretum have different priorities to the residents of Withersfield Village and so if village residents become the minority of Parish residents. Withersfield residents do not include Hanchett End in the annual litter pick or Carol singing.
- I support this recommendation but I believe it is very short sighted for further expansion to the Research Park for the boundary to follow across the bypass to link up with the Essex border.

In addition to the written and online responses, the Council also received a telephone call from a resident of Withersfield Village who wished to point out that the village sign for Withersfield was (and always had been) between Hanchett End and Withersfield Village, and enquired if it would be moved if the boundary remained unchanged, to include Hanchett End?

D. Borough Councillor

CLlr Jane Midwood, ward member for Withersfield, has written to disagree with the recommendation:

"As Borough Councillor for Withersfield Ward on St Edmundsbury Borough Council, I wish to state my strong support for Withersfield Parish Council's Submission to the Community Governance Review, which clearly concludes that the areas under examination – Hanchett End, Barsey Close and The Arboretum should remain in Withersfield Parish.

Residents of the above areas identify strongly as part of Withersfield village community. They participate in parish events and churchgoers naturally chose the parish church of St Mary the Virgin over Haverhill churches. The excellent village newsletter is distributed to the whole parish, not just the core centre of the village – this clearly means that residents feel a sense of belonging.

A sense of place is a very important part of life in rural Suffolk. Many residents have grown up in the Barsey Close area of Withersfield – there are a number of very old properties of historic interest. These properties belong in Withersfield parish as they always have done.

The strong attendance at the recent public meeting should clearly indicate to the Community Governance Review the strength of public feeling in Withersfield. I urge all those concerned with the decision making process to take this into account and reject the proposals to change the parish boundary."

No	Area or Properties Under Review	Parishes Directly Affected	Matter covered by final recommendation
19	Elm Farm and associated cottages, Assington Green, Stansfield (CO10 8LY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Denston •Stansfield 	Boundary between the parishes of Denston and Stansfield in vicinity of Elm Farm

Final Recommendation

The area shown on consultation map M be transferred from Denston Parish to Stansfield Parish.

The request for the transfer was received from Stansfield Parish Council which believes the properties in question have closer links to Stansfield socially and geographically, and would benefit from the democratic representation of a parish council. This view was supported by the County Councillor. However, Denston Parish Meeting was unable to respond during phase 1 of the review since it fell between parish meetings. The affected electors also expressed strong and differing views on whether to transfer from or remain in Denston. The Council therefore felt that it would be worth exploring the potential for the change further through consultation in phase 2, by way of a definite proposal.

The reasons for the recommendation include:

1. **local preference and/or evidence** (see above); and
2. **it potentially provides more appropriate parish boundaries to reflect the interests and identity of local electors and offers them more effective and convenient local government.**

Potential Amendments to Recommendation Raised in Consultation

Given the lack of consensus/information in phase 1, the Council used phase 2 to test the appetite for change by consulting again on a definite proposition. As the following evidence shows, there is still no consensus, with the two parishes and affected electors taking strongly varying views on the need for change, and an objection to the recommendation from a landowner. The Council must therefore decide if it has enough evidence, in relation to the criteria for CGRs and local opinion, to justify a change to the current parish boundary.

Responses During Phase 2 Consultation

Phase 1 responses for this issue can be read at: www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/cgr.

A. Denston Parish Meeting (response of Chairman)

"You will note that in my original submission I did say that being such a small village it would most definitely not be in our interest to have these properties removed due to any boundary change.

The Annual Parish Meeting took place on Tues 3rd May and following a detailed debate on the CGR proposal to move Elm Farm, and surrounding houses, from Denston the Parish Meeting voted unanimously to reject that and to retain the

status quo. The reasons for that are as follows:

- **Tradition.** There has always been a strong connection with Denston. The footpaths crossing the Denston Hall park were used to walk to this village from the properties at Elm Farm and the sense of community has always been directed towards Denston. People who live there have always considered themselves to part of this village. On a personal note I have lived here for forty years this year and have never heard anyone suggest otherwise.
- **Democracy.** We have less than 100 people on the Electoral Register and would not want to see any reduction in that number.
- **Geography.** Elm Farm is physically closer to St. Nicholas' Church Denston, and the Village Hall, than it is to the Church and Village Hall in Stansfield.

Having consulted the Electors concerned you will be aware of the strong opposition to this proposal by some of the property owners. I also understand that Denston Hall Estate have made representations for the retention of boundaries as they are at present."

B. Stansfield Parish Council

"Stansfield Parish Council supports this recommendation and would like to make the following additional comments:

- The Parish Council feels that the residents in Denston miss out on representation at parish level as demonstrated by the fact that the Denston Parish Meeting was unable to meet and respond to the first round of consultation despite a long consultation period.
- Having viewed some of the responses made by residents there seems to be some confusion as to the role of parish councils as some comments reflect the belief that the parish council is somehow linked to the church.
- The comment about the Denston Estate being closely integrated with Elm Farm is not relevant as a large proportion of the land of the Denston Estate is within the boundary of Stansfield parish.
- The Parish Council would like to challenge the comment about the CGR being 'a total waste of time, money, paper and ink' as the CGR is about improving local democracy and giving a voice to electors at a local level."

C. Local electors

In both phases of the review, the Council wrote to the 11 registered electors in four directly affected properties, as per the agreed review methodology. The consultations allowed around 8 weeks for responses, and a response form was provided. In phase 1 the consultation sought views on the various options available, and in phase 2 it tested support for the recommendation.

Anonymising the properties and electors, the evidence received in both phases can be summarised as follows:

	Phase 1 Consultation, 2015		Phase 2 Consultation, 2016	
	Preference	Electors	Preference	Electors
Property 1	Stansfield	3	No response received	
Property 2	No response received		Stansfield	3
Property 3	Denston	4	Denston	4
Property 4	No response received		Denston	1

In phase 1, one household supported each option and there was a 4:3 split in expressed elector preferences (with 7 out of the 11 electors responding).

In phase 2, 8 electors took part, but 4 were responding for the first time; 2 of the households (and 5 electors) supported remaining in Denston, compared to 1 household (and 3 electors) who preferred a transfer to Stansfield. It is not known why one of the properties did not take part in the phase 2 consultation, and it cannot be inferred that their preference will not have changed. Therefore, while all 11 electors have taken part at various stages, all that can be safely concluded is that, during the review, there has been no consensus on this issue. Furthermore, if the two exercises are taken separately, a majority of electors (57% and 63% respectively) have opposed a change on each occasion.

Qualitative evidence disagreeing with the recommendation

The five electors who wrote to object to the recommendation in phase 2 have advised:

- “As well as moving a centuries old parish boundary and, as such, a piece of local history this recommendation would detract from the smaller and more needy parish and give to the larger one. As the number of dwellings within the proposed border change are so few and would benefit the Stansfield Parish so little, that the only plausible reason for this recommendation is parish council gerrymandering.”
- “There is absolutely no need to change the parish boundaries. Elm Farm has been within Denston Parish for hundreds of years. Historically Elm Farm was the main farm that supplied Denston Hall and Denston Hall still owns it. I enjoy being part of Denston and going to church in the beautiful building. I believe this whole thing is completely ridiculous and I do not want to move parish and I know many historians that are furious about the proposal.”
- “Reading the letter you sent with this form I believe this CGR does not achieve any of the points a-c. In fact, in our case, totally the reverse. We attend Denston Church which this house is historically linked with. I use the post box in Denston which I can walk to easily when my letters are too big for the Assington Green post box. We attend village functions in Denston in both the church and village hall. Elm Farm and Elm Farm Cottages have been historically linked with Denston for many hundred years and the farm around us still belongs to Denston Hall. To change boundaries would fly in the face of history and our strong community ties with Denston.”
- “(a)Community identity – I identify far more with Denston than with Stansfield; (b) Community involvement in local democracy – why further weaken Denston?; (c) Provide stronger communities – what about Denston? (d) As (b) above; and (e) Parish Services are fine as they are.”
- *One of the electors has also submitted a very detailed document explaining their objection to the recommendation, which is set out below.*

Letter from Directly Affected Elector

"I strongly oppose the recommendation that the area shown on consultation Map M be transferred from Denston Parish to Stansfield Parish for the following reasons:

PRELIMINARY NOTE

On the Phase 1 of the consultation I was unable to meet West Suffolk's unilaterally imposed deadline. West Suffolk therefore did not have my view or input. Nor did it have input from others affected by the proposal as its consultation exercise did not catch their views.

RELEVANT BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

I declare & explain my interest.

Relations with those affected

- (1) At the outset I emphasise that I get on extremely well and have good relations with all the residents of the homes in the area covered by the proposed change. That includes all members of such households who (contrary to me) appear to support the proposed boundary change. I confirm my views are independent. I have no family or other connection with any of the owners or residents of the other properties in the area covered by the proposed change.

Background to my property

- (2) Leaving aside, for the moment, the farm called Elm Farm, its land and buildings parts of which also fall within the area of the proposed boundary change, I should explain my home is one of the four within the area or enclave directly covered by the proposal. My home property comprises what was once a single terrace of three one-up-one-down farm workers cottages. I have owned its freehold including its surrounding garden and lived there over a period of years since purchasing them many years ago. The purchase was from a previous owner of the Denston Hall / Elm Farm Estate. This estate farm still surrounds my land and also the other properties covered by the area of the proposed boundary change. Significantly as said part of the farm itself is now caught within the proposed boundary change area.

Presence in subject area prior to others

- (3) Further and importantly my home and presence in the enclave which is the subject of the proposed boundary change stems from a time well before any of the present residents lived in any of the other properties covered by the proposed boundary change. When I acquired my property different families lived in Elm Farm House and the two semis immediately adjacent my property. Notwithstanding the evidence provided in the Phase 1 consultation I should clarify that none of the family members who appear to support the proposed change lived within the subject area of the boundary change before me. I then had wholly different neighbours from now.

Illustration of my identification with Denston

- (4) After its acquisition I restored my property intending it to continue to form part of heritage of Denston with which village and parish I happily identified and continue to identify. At the time I purchased the cottages which now comprise my Cottage they were derelict and unfit for habitation and the subject of a council closing order. My restored property is now protected as a

Listed Building. Some years after restoration its connection with Denston parish and village was highlighted in a half page illustrated article in the Bury Free Press. **See scanned image.**

Connection of other subject homes to Denston

- (5) Being a derelict property, the former residents of my property had left long before my purchase. Moreover the Elm Farm Estate had subsequently built, next door, two replacement homes. They comprise a house divided into two adjacent semis to house its employees. Those two semis now form two of the four homes within the enclave which is the subject of the proposed boundary change. I understand the replacement homes are still owned by the Denston Hall Elm Farm Estate.
- (6) As regards the only other property in the enclave covered by the proposed boundary change, apart mine and the farm buildings and offices, namely the nearby old Farm House, I understand its freehold was sold by the Elm Farm Estate owners. It is now occupied by its present owner occupier family.

Weight accorded to my views

- (7) Given that I have owned and lived within the area covered by the proposed change of boundary spanning a period of years far longer than any of those persons in the other three properties I believe my views on this issue should carry significant weight.

Weight accorded to views of Denston Hall Estate and farm

- (8) Further since all the four homes covered by the proposed boundary change remain surrounded by the Elm Farm estate farm, which is I understand still owned and run by the present owners of Denston Hall Farm Estate, I believe the views of the farm owners should also carry significant weight on this issue.

[N.B. letter received is set out below].

Description of issues exclusively connected to Denston

- (9) Although I confirm I have no interest in the farm or the estate or its owners other than having purchased my home in the past. Nevertheless the fact remains that many issues and services affecting both myself and my property and indeed all the four properties and also my relationship with my immediate neighbours living in the replacement semis are integrally connected with the farm and its owners and the parish of Denston. This will remain the case even if this wholly inappropriate proposed boundary change were to be put into effect.
- (10) Relevant issues will remain and affect myself and the farm and they include services supplied to and used by those residing in the replacement semis. Examples include but are not limited to such matters as water supply, sewage services, planning, and rights of way. All these directly affect both myself and the occupants of the replacement semis. They also directly involve and have to be dealt with directly with the immediately surrounding farm and its owners and in particular its ultimate owner the Denston Hall Farm Estate. As said, whatever happens as to the boundary he will continue

to live within the parish of Denston and his farm will predominantly continue to fall within the parish of Denston. The proposed boundary change will disadvantageously further split up the farm into different parishes. It will only make a complex situation between myself and my immediate neighbours even more complex and problematical. In particular it will introduce Stansfield Parish Council and its electors into the equation with whom there have been no previous dealings. It is noteworthy that I have had no previous dealings with Stansfield precisely because they have had no relevant interest. They should continue to have no relevant interest.

Anecdotal illustration of postal non connection with Stansfield but rather Sudbury.

(11) Anecdotally I should add that when I purchased my property its postal address was Denston Newmarket. In their infinite wisdom, the then decision makers in the Post Office unilaterally decided they wanted to sort the post service from Sudbury and not Newmarket. Accordingly my property and I assume the other homes within the present enclave were each reallocated a Sudbury CO 10 pre fix post code. Since then and over many years my postal delivery service has been consistently unsatisfactory. The current proposal to change the parish boundary is equally disadvantageous to me.

BASIS FOR MY RESPONSE

Basis for my views includes personal consultation with others and researches

(12) Since hearing about this boundary change proposal I have consulted with others living within the area covered by the change. Additionally I have checked with others likely to be directly affected by any such change. In this respect I regard it as most unfortunate that not all those likely to be adversely affected including the farm owners were not canvassed directly by West Suffolk during the phase 1. Hopefully their views will be noted in the current round.

(13) In preparing my response I have considered the published West Suffolk Council summary analysis of comments it received in Phase 1 from which it prepared a final recommendation on Issue 19 prior to this Phase 2 consultation.

(14) I also obtained and considered past minutes of Stansfield Parish Council meetings in an effort to understand the genesis of this boundary change proposal and whether there was any justifiable real basis for it.

Genesis of misguided request proposing parish boundary change

(15) My researches indicated that Stansfield Parish Council was the party requesting the proposed change of boundary around Elm Farm and that its request was predominantly if not exclusively prompted by the members and interests of one family. Moreover the Phase 1 responses indicate that the only persons favouring the boundary change who reside within the area covered by the proposed change were again members of that same family..

Inadequacy of previous West Suffolk consultation exercise

(16) With the benefit of hind sight and in the light of the above it is self-evident
(a) the initial Phase 1 consultation not only failed to properly reflect the true

views of those persons having homes in the area covered by the proposal and likely to be adversely affected by any such boundary change but also (b) that Phase 1 consultation failed to highlight that the proposal was necessarily based on flawed, misleading and exaggerated or unsound reasoning and inadequate material.

Factors taken account of in providing my views

- (17) In preparing my response I have paid close regard to the guiding factors which the West Suffolk Council stated should be considered in deciding the issue within this CGR namely:
- a) whether it would reflect local residents' sense of community and identity
 - b) result in improved community engagement
 - c) provide for stronger communities
 - d) provide for better local democracy and/or
 - e) result in more effective and convenient delivery of local services.

Onus on those proposing change to satisfy its case to required standard

- (18) In terms of process apart from having regard to the above factors I suggest that it is important to recognise that to change the existing parish boundary position imposes:- (i) an onus on those seeking such change to establish the need for that change (ii) to establish the need for a change to the required standard.

Onus rests on Stansfield and its supporters to show need for change

- (19) In turn that means Stansfield Parish Council and those who support its request for the boundary change need to discharge the onus on them by meeting the required standard of proof. That can only be achieved if they put forward sufficient tangible plausible support evidence. That is evidence which is not refuted or outweighed by positive material militating in favour of keeping the long existing boundary.

Need for evidence to support & underpin assertions

- (20) It is not enough for those seeking to make the change of boundary merely to rely on unsubstantiated assertions. Further it matters not whether those unsubstantiated claims are made by directly affected resident electors or even elected county councillors. Unfortunately as illustrated below such vague and questionable claims seem to have characterised much of the case for those supporting the proposed boundary change hitherto.

Present boundary long standing without problems - no need to fix it if not broken

- (21) It is relevant given the onus lies on those seeking change to establish a need for it to note that the existing Denston-Stansfield parish boundary position in the area covered the proposed change has existed for some hundreds of years and that no identified difficulties or anomalies have arisen in its operation thus far.

Failure of Stansfield & supporters to provide adequate evidence to satisfy onus

- (22) Such evidence base as has been put forward to support the proposed change has as shown below, fallen woefully short of what is required to justify the change. By contrast the material highlighted below demonstrates an

overwhelming positive practical case for maintaining the present boundaries.

Proposal will have negative and not positive impact judged by CGR factors

(23) The proposed boundary change would introduce practical difficulties as exemplified and identified above. On the other hand as explained below it would not provide any real or substantial advantage. It would have a negative not a positive impact in respect of the CGR guiding factors.

Residents of area covered by change will suffer practical difficulties

(24) By creating the identified practical difficulties the proposed boundary would disadvantage all the residents of the properties directly covered by the boundary change area. That is it would introduce problems not just for myself and the others who are opposed to the change but also for the family members occupying the replacement semis who seem to be the only relevant residents favouring the change.

Proposal means transfer of voters and land identity

(25) In summary the proposal effectively involves the wholesale transfer from Denston to Stansfield both of a group of voters and of what amounts to the land and buildings belonging to the farm together with the lands also encompassed by it belonging to four homes. See official Map M.

Those residents in subject area supporting change comprise one family but those opposing comprise wider group

(26) Of those four homes two of them are still owned by the farm estate. The other two are respectively owned by myself and a wholly different family. All the occupiers of these other homes who comprise different families together with those representing Elm Farm totally oppose the change.

IDENTIFYING WITH DENSTON

I identify with Denston and do not identify with Stansfield

(27) As shown above by the published article I identify totally with Denston and always have done. I regard Denston as integral to the enclave where my home is situated. I have no wish nor interest to become absorbed as part of Stansfield Village or Parish. Neither do I not want the village of Denston nor its own identity weakened and lessened. But that will happen if the proposal is accepted.

(28) I have attended services at Denston church and trudged there by foot along the dedicated footpath leading from my home. By contrast I have never attended a service at Stansfield church. Moreover I have never even gone by foot to Stansfield's pub. However seven people who recently stayed at my home did trudge by foot to the pub at the nearby village of Hawkedon (where our local telephone exchange is located). It is within my own direct knowledge that none of my own family who have on various occasions over the years stayed at my home have ever indicated any desire to be associated or identified with Stansfield but they have with Denston; and after that would be more likely to identify with other nearby villages in preference to Stansfield because they have no interest or connection with it.

COMMUNITY COHESION

Proposal will reduce cohesion not improve it

(29) The proposed change if it were put into effect will leave in its wake the various identified problems and disadvantages for those remaining in Denston and for its parish. The ensuing reality of the proposed change would not be to promote better community cohesion but engender the absolute opposite and foster resentment.

INVOLVEMENT IN ELECTIONS

Proposal will increase electoral apathy because elections of less relevance

(30) It is difficult to understand how on earth it could be suggested the change would promote improved participation in elections involving issues which affect and are of real relevance and of importance to the community covered by the proposed change. That is borne out as explained further below.

(31) By way of illustration such a change would certainly not encourage me to participate in an election at Stansfield Parish Council. That follows because that body would have no experience knowledge or justifiable interest in the issues arising and affecting the homes and interests of the persons resident in and using the area covered by the proposed change. The issues and services affecting the area covered by the proposed change including those highlighted earlier would remain largely relevant to the parish of Denston. The proposed change in boundary would simply further emphasise the need for and encourage a desire to have a voice to express views and participate in elections within the parish of Denston where the issues affecting those within the area of the boundary change and those left behind in Denston will remain relevant. Thus the boundary will change but the buildings and people in them will remain static.

STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Proposal will weaken Denston

(32) The proposed change would manifestly not provide for stronger communities. The very process of changing the boundary as proposed would significantly weaken the community of the Denston Parish. It would deprive Denston of a significant number of electors. It would also deprive it of a significant area. Self-evidently that will weaken Denston and not strengthen it.

Proposal will not even strengthen Stansfield

(33) Curiously it will not even strengthen Stansfield Parish in any sensible way. That follows because to add a number of 'reluctant potential electors' against their will to Stansfield parish roll will only tend to disengage them from the electoral process. They will be obliged contrary to their judgment to participate in the affairs of Stansfield which are not, and have not hitherto been relevant to them. At the same time it will separate them from and deny them participation in the issues and affairs of Denston which will continue to remain relevant to them.

Proposal runs contrary to principle of good governance

(34) As a matter of principle it cannot be acceptable or consistent with good governance to weaken one local body namely Denston by depleting its electorate in order to strengthen an adjacent local body namely Stansfield by seeking to add those same electors lost to Denston.

IMPROVED LOCAL DEMOCRACY

Proposal undermines local democracy for Denston and Stansfield

(35) Clearly the proposed change will not provide for better local democracy. Simply adding a number of electors to the Stansfield roll will in turn mean that the voice of each Stansfield elector will be correspondingly diluted. Furthermore the voice of those moved from Denston to Stansfield in the area covered by the proposed change will be diluted even more. That follows because they will move from a parish with a smaller number of electors to one with nearly twice as many.

Proposal means further negative impact on local democracy in Denston – relevant issues remain in Denston

(36) A further unfortunate and adverse consequence of the proposed change will mean that those left behind in Denston (its depleted electorate) will be denied a direct voice in respect of issues and matters which will arise in the future affecting issues within that area moved from its bailiwick. On the other hand if the boundary remained as is, and as has been for time immemorial, all the persons in Denston will continue to enjoy the democratic right to have their strong voices heard in respect of issues and services relevant to the area covered by the proposed change.

Parish meeting system suited to Denston and will be weakened by proposal & disadvantage its electors

(37) At present the number of electors in Denston are much fewer as compared with Stansfield. That means that the Parish Meeting system suits Denston admirably well. It operates effectively and highly democratically to reflect the views of its smaller electorate. The meeting and its chairman can more effectively and accurately assess the wishes of the Parish. That democratic strength should remain and not be weakened by allowing this nonsensical ill thought through proposal to proceed further.

FLAWED & UNSOUND BASIS OF STANSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL REQUEST

Unsound basis of claim that those within the subject area of change will benefit from being ruled by Stansfield Parish Council rather than represented by Denston parish meeting

(38) The argument raised by Stansfield Parish Council in Phase 1 in favour of the proposed change that the properties covered by the proposed change would be better served by being included within the parish of Stansfield with its Parish Council as opposed to a parish meeting is flawed. That unsubstantiated claim is both wrongheaded in principle and also in fact because it incorrectly fails to take account of the particular circumstances set out in this document. Bigger is not always more attractive nor functionally more effective as this issue serves to illustrate. Stansfield is just one parish and village just as Denston is just one parish and village. There are many other parishes and villages in West Suffolk all of which differ in their respective populations. Nevertheless each village or parish has in the end just one voice as a village or Parish. There is no reason why the voice of Denston should not be identified and heard simply because it has a parish meeting rather than a parish council.

DELIVERY OF PARISH SERVICES

Absence of need for change as regards any identifiable parish supplied

services

(39) As regards services provided directly by the various parishes these are necessarily very limited. The most important local services are provided by the borough council. In my experience residents can and usually do intercede directly at borough level with officers or borough councillors to obtain delivery of required services. I am not aware of any relevant service offered by Stansfield which requires or justifies the residents in the particular area covered by the proposed change to be uprooted and replanted within Stansfield parish. Certainly no specific examples of any such services were identified in the West Suffolk summary report of the views expressed by persons in the Phase 1 consultation.

3 WAY APPROACH TO REJECTING PROPOSAL

Threeway analysis:- identifies flaws in proposers case & identify positives for keeping boundary and exemplifying how CGR factors can be achievable for all by continuing inter-parish cooperation with existing boundary

(40) For convenience I further justify rejecting the boundary change proposal by adopting the following three way approach namely:- (i) note arguments put forward to support the boundary change & identify their flaws & why they fail to show need for a boundary change (ii) identify positive reasons for maintaining present boundary and why the proposal should be rejected both in the interests of Denston and its residents including those covered by the proposed area of change and those who visit and use its facilities. (iii) tentatively suggest how the laudable aims of the governance review criteria are better realised in practice by maintaining the existing parish boundaries and inter parish cooperation and cohesion.

Stansfield Parish council flawed proposal

(41) Stansfield Parish Council minutes record the genesis and purported basis of the misguided proposal. It moved that the boundary be changed purportedly for the following basic reasons namely; - because the Elm Farm properties affected by the change have closer (a) geographical and (b) social links to Stansfield and (c) the change would result in better community cohesion and (d) improved election participation and (e) a greater democratic voice if represented by a parish council rather than a parish meeting.

(42) The basis for their motion is totally flawed. As trailed above much of their case is characterised by vague unsubstantiated claims which simply repeat the CGR criteria or identify comparatively trivial examples which fall away when refuted & tested.

Geographical basis underpinning proposal is unsustainable – Denston is closer

(43) As for the geographical claim which seeks to underpin the motion namely that the properties covered by the proposed boundary change are closer to Stansfield this is wholly misleading and utterly misconceived. A simple reference to an ordnance survey map demonstrates the contrary true reality. All four homes and also the farm buildings are geographically closer to Denston. That is the case whether measured by reference to the respective village halls or the respective parish churches.

Denston closer by footpath

(44) Any OS map also shows that access to Denston Church and Village Hall from

the directly affected properties are provided for by dedicated footpaths accessible from these properties. I together with many others have used these footpaths to access both Denston Parish Church and Denston village hall. By contrast there are no corresponding equivalent footpaths to Stansfield or its church which provide a shorter or more direct route from the properties to Stansfield.

Denston closer by road

(45) Further from the subject properties it is even shorter by road to Denston Church and or its Village Hall than to Stanfield and or its Church or Village Hall or as the crow flies.

Anecdotal illustration of how geographical closeness of Stansfield pub does not militate in favour of proposal or nurture connection or cohesion with Stansfield

(46) Anecdotally I should add that judging by the fact that the seven visitors to my property chose to walk to their preferred hostelry The Queens Head at the nearby village of Hawkedon (see example above) rather than walk to the pub at Stansfield indicates that merely changing the Stansfield Denston parish boundary is most unlikely to increase business or ties with the Stansfield pub amongst occupiers or visitors to properties within the proposed boundary change area. Furthermore the pub at Stansfield has to my knowledge closed for extended periods within recent years and as such cannot necessarily be counted on as a reliable permanent pillar on which to promote community cohesion.

Connections and interests of one family with and in Stansfield does not justify change

(47) The second premise which underpins the Stansfield Parish Council motion requesting the boundary change is also demonstrably unsound. Whilst it may be the case that the one particular family also happen to a very have a relative(s) who live(s) in Stansfield and that the same family members support the Stansfield Cricket Club and hall social activities and choose to frequent the Stansfield pub that fails to adequately establish that (the occupants and visitors to the four homes and the Elm Farm building owners who will be directly affected by the change) have closer social links to Stansfield than Denston.

Connections and interests of others within the proposed area of change also spread outside Denston but do not give rise to any need to change parish boundary

(48) It is within my direct knowledge that I and others who live in the two other properties not occupied by those who support the proposed change, visit a number of other pubs in preference to the one in Stansfield. Moreover I and those others have many social links not only with persons who live in other parts of Denston but also in a number of other nearby villages. Nevertheless we do not advocate being absorbed within those other parishes where they have connections whether they be social or familial.

Occupants of homes covered by the change have connections with and support Denston based activities and services

(49) Further I am aware that persons who live in some of the houses within the

proposed boundary change enjoy going to quiz nights, recitals and other social events organised in Denston either in its Village Hall or Church and or in other properties within the Denston Parish. Further even such mundane but necessary local services as post boxes with suitably wide openings to take larger letters are to be found nearer and within Denston rather than within Stansfield.

The mere repetition of the CGR aims without evidence does not merit change

(50) The suggestion and mere repetition of CGR mantra that changing the parish boundary will promote better community cohesion, election participation, and greater democratic voice in decisions that affect them does not make it a reality. It merely provides examples of unsubstantiated claims based on wishful thinking.

Personal examples of how the proposal will not help me to achieve the CGR aims but rather the opposite

(51) Such claims are without any sound basis for the reasons explained earlier above but in addition are not justifiable as further exemplified. By way of illustration changing the parish boundary to encompass me and others within Stansfield (a) will not increase the chances of my visiting the pub in Stansfield or (b) travelling a greater distance to take part in one of their quiz nights or other cultural event in preference to that of Denston. (c) will not cause me to choose to exercise my right to vote in an election which affects my interests because my interests do not coincide with those concerning Stansfield. Indeed I am at a loss to understand what interest affecting me might be better dealt with in Stansfield than in the Denston parochial jurisdiction. (d) as for the suggestion that the change will provide me and others with a greater democratic voice –that is totally fallacious as explained above. In Denston I am one amongst 94 electors. My voice and views carry a greater proportionate weight than if I were one amongst 175 which is the present electorate of Stansfield. My democratic voice and its potential influence would correspondingly lessen and be diluted and adversely affected if the electors covered by the proposed change were forced to become part of the Stansfield electorate. As stated the Parish Meeting is a recognised and accepted tier of local government and it is peculiarly suited to reflecting the views of the Parish of Denston. Just as parliamentary constituencies with varying electorate number each still only elects a single MP with one voice so each Parish and village has each has a voice in the local government.

Alternative personal means of protecting and securing local services and interests without requiring any need to change parish boundary and have Stansfield intercede

(52) For my own part I have found that the best way to ensure my interests are protected and services adequately provided on a local level are to contact the local councillors directly and or their officers directly. In my experience it is they who ultimately provide the local services not the Parishes.

Present Denston governance adequate & relevant to resolve needs & issues

(53) So far as Denston is concerned I am entirely content with the way in which the Parish operates and obtains its views and transmits them and helps

resolve such local issues as arise. By way of illustration one of the most important and often arising issues are planning and related issues. This is principally concerned with visual matters. Starting at the local Parish level it is parish electors residents and occupiers who are the ones most closely related and affected by planning issues. Hence the residents occupiers and owners most closely affecting and affected by the properties covered by the proposed boundary change have always been and will continue to be those persons within the existing Denston parish boundary. The buildings will not move even if the boundary moves.

Planning issues require present parish boundary to be maintained in interests of all residents

(54) By way of further explanation I purchased my freehold property from a resident of Denston who happens to own a significant area of land. I deal with them on a regular basis and they are based in Denston Parish. I also consult my neighbours who all are within the Denston parish on a regular basis about aspects of planning and other services. By contrast I have not had and see no reason to have dealings with residents or the electors of Stansfield on such an immediate basis. Such matters are not likely to affect them. It will make matters unnecessarily more complex and less cohesive if I have to deal with two Parish authorities. Life will become even more bureaucratic and difficult for those who administer these matters and those who are affected by them.

Relevant governance issues will remain to be dealt by and with Denston notwithstanding the proposed change which will also affect supporters of change

(55) Although my immediate neighbours (who unlike me appear to support the boundary change) and I fall within the proposed boundary change area I apprehend both they and I will still have to deal with Denston parish and owners of Denston Hall. The latter will remain my next most immediate neighbours. They will remain located in the parish of Denston. They will, subsequent to any change, continue to own the semis and their land and also the surrounding land including that abutting the land covered by the area of the proposed change.

Proposal for change ill-thought through

(56) It strikes me that the whole proposal for boundary change has been ill thought through by those supporting it and seems to be limited to enhancing a minority interest at the expense of and rather than for the greater good of us all within this relatively small enclave of four homes and the farm buildings.

Good relations with supporters of change but I am forced to resist it because it is not good for any one

(57) At outset I explained that I felt I had enjoyed excellent relations with all those electors living the properties directly covered by the change and expect to do so in the future but nevertheless believe strongly supported by good practical reasons that the proposal is inherently flawed and ill thought out and certainly not consistent with any benefit having regard to the CGR criteria.

**ANECDOTAL ILLUSTRATIONS OF INTER PARISH COOPERATION
ACHIEVING CGR GUIDING AIMS ABSENT ANY NEED FOR ANY PARISH
BOUNDARY CHANGE** Examples of how CGR aims achievable by inter parish
cooperation with existing boundary obviating any need for proposed
change

(58) I illustrate how the legitimate governance aspirations and enjoyment of amenities and services which are cited in the Phase 1 consultation responses of those residents living within the subject change area can be achieved and maintained even without the proposed boundary change. Moreover the examples cited in this document serve to show how with existing boundaries Stansfield its self and its own facilities has benefitted from inter-parish cooperation without the need to redraw or change the Denston Stansfield parish boundary

Stansfield Cricket Club interests served by existing boundary

(59) My first illustration is to point out that even with the existing boundary the family members who support the change have been able to support and play cricket for Stansfield Cricket Club. The fact they have lived in Denston has not barred them and will not in the future. Secondly the fact that they have a relative in Stansfield will not prevent them visiting them or visiting the pub in Stansfield or taking part in whatever social events they wish to in Stansfield whether it be a village fete or whatever. Equally they can take part in the activities of Denston if they wish or indeed any other nearby village such as Cowlinge, Hundon, Hawkedon, Cavendish, Stradishall, Poslingford or Wickambrook, Hartest. The point is there is absolutely no need to alter the parish boundary to do all that.

Grass cutting services to Stansfield

(60) One of the reasons mentioned in Phase 1 consultation for changing the boundary was of the close connection of members of one family with Stansfield Cricket club. As to that I should comment that from time to time I have been asked and have willingly supplied my trusty ride-on-mower to Stansfield Cricket club without charge in order to cut the grass on their cricket pitch. I have willingly done so. No doubt I will continue to do when they need the services I am able to supply.

Employment interests served by existing boundary

(61) Furthermore as to parish level services I believe it is relevant to make some relevant anecdotal observations. Over the years I have provided employment for several members of the family who now appear to support the boundary change and in return I have enjoyed the benefit of the services they have provided. The point is that has taken place within Denston and absent any need or assistance from Stansfield or its Parish Council or to have the parish boundary changed either for them or myself to enjoy the reciprocity of their employment services. That can happily continue without the need for any change in parish boundary.

Accommodation interests adequately served by existing boundary

(62) Further I have in the past provided accommodation to residents of Stansfield. In particular members of the family who own the major farming estate in Stansfield. This was when they needed it whilst their own place in Stansfield was being refurbished. That service was provided in Denston by me and

required no parish boundary change to give effect to it.

Observation : connection and cooperation does not mean boundaries require to be changed

(63) However it is worth noting I am not seeking that Stansfield need become part of Denston to continue and enhance that cooperation. Suffice to say it is a simple illustration of inter-parish cooperation leading to a more global increased community cohesion without the need for any parish boundary change.

CONCLUSION

(64) In the light of more adequate reliable and cogent evidence now available I hope the earlier decision on this issue can be corrected and the proposal rejected. The proposed change would inevitably be contrary to good governance. It would neither be in the true interest of all the residents falling within the area of the proposal or in the interests of direct users of the properties in the area covered by the proposed boundary change. Moreover it would be contrary to the wider public interest and good governance of Denston and West Suffolk.

[See overleaf for supporting newspaper article].

Qualitative evidence in favour of the recommendation

The three electors who wrote in phase 2 to tell the Council that they favoured the recommendation did not provide any supporting comments. The supporting comments made by another of the households in phase 1 can be read in the summary for that phase of the process (see link at start of report). They are also referenced in the phase 2 submission of one of the residents set out immediately above (para 47).

D. Denston Hall Estate

“As owner of Elm Farm House, I am writing to provide my views upon the proposals. As outlined in hatching upon the plan you have supplied, Elm Farm House, the neighbouring farm yard and the surrounding, associated land lie within the Parish of Denston and form part of my larger land holding of Denston Hall Estate. As such, it is my strong view that this historic association with the Parish of Denston and Denston Hall should continue, such that the Farm House, farm yard and associated land should continue to remain within the parish of Denston. Your information sheet indicates that any decision on this matter should take account both local preferences and boundaries appropriate to local identity and interests, hence clearly point to the Farm House, farm yard and associated land remaining within the Parish of Denston.”

...age of family needs.

...firm carpenters and cur- ...

...building on the stump.

...the market through rivers.

BURY FREE PRESS Property Now, Friday, May 27, 1988

Then and now ...

Doing up a period property calls for considerable imagination and skill in order to preserve and enhance its character while at the same time updating amenities to modern standards.

Chartered surveyors Sheppard and Co, of Brengovell Street, Bury St Edmunds, are specialists in the restoration and extension of older buildings and one of the most challenging projects to come their way has been the restoration of this cottage near Denston.

Empty for a number of years, the property had been the subject of a Closing Order but was at the same time listed as of Grade II historic interest.

Replacement

The thatch had deteriorated to such an extent it had to be stripped and renewed, the walls had to be taken down to their bare framework and rotten timbers replaced with others of similar age taken from a local barn.

Second-hand oak beams were also used for other restoration work which involved **● Above right, the cottage as it is today, and below a view of the comfortable high ceiling lounge with inglenook fireplace.**

replacing sole plates on top of new brick footings and foundations.

New windows were installed to improve the lighting, particularly in the bedrooms, and a chimney was completely rebuilt using old bricks. Old panmelt tiles and bricks were also used in restoring the original floors.

Character

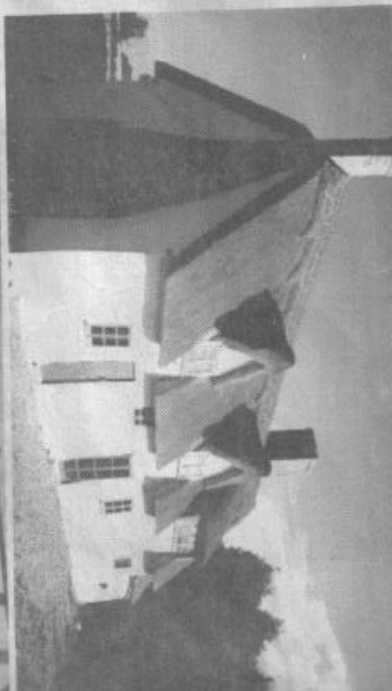
Completed last autumn, the property is now a comfortable home of great character, retaining as many as possible of its original features.

Mr Jeremy Sheppard, of Sheppard and Co, has undertaken a number of similar restorations since moving to Bury six years ago. The firm undertakes complete surveys, prepares plans and will supervise the work through to completion.

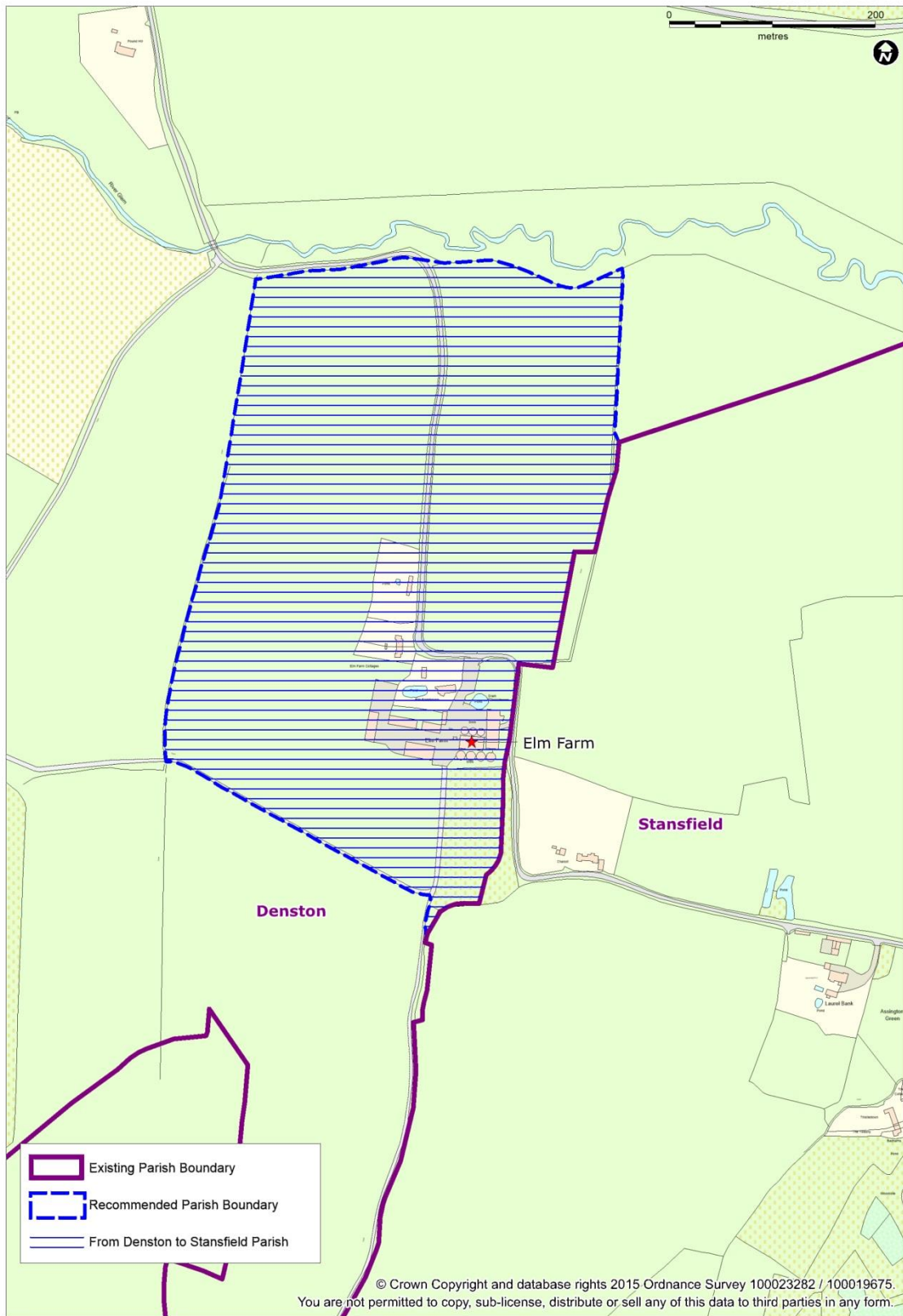
● Above right, the cottage as it is today, and below a view of the comfortable high ceiling lounge with inglenook fireplace.



● This cottage near Denston was virtually derelict when the owner bought it for restoration. Below, a picture of the work in progress — work involved stripping its timber frame and replacing rotten timbers with sound ones.



Consultation map M – Issue 19



No	Area or Properties Under Review	Parishes Directly Affected	Matter covered by final recommendation
20	Area between Fornham Lock Bridge and the Sheepwash Bridge, adjacent to the sewage works entrance, Fornham St Martin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Fornham All Saints •Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve 	Boundary between the parishes of Fornham All Saints and Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve along the B1106.

Final Recommendation for Consultation

The area shown on consultation map N be transferred from Fornham All Saints Parish to Fornham St Genevieve Parish.

There was not a consensus from phase 1 on whether or not to make a change, with the parish councils and affected electors expressing different views. The Council therefore felt there was merit in a final recommendation to use the river as a strong natural boundary being tested through further consultation.

The reasons for the recommendation include:

1. **local preference and/or evidence** (see above);
2. **it potentially provides more appropriate parish boundaries to reflect the interests and identity of local electors and offers them more effective and convenient local government;** and
3. **it utilises the strong natural boundary of the river.**

Potential Amendments to Recommendation Raised in Consultation

Given the lack of consensus in phase 1, the Council used phase 2 to test the appetite for change by consulting again on a definite proposition. The only new evidence received in phase 2 supports the recommendation, but there is good reason to believe from phase 1 that there is unlikely to be consensus either way. The Council must therefore decide if it has enough evidence, in relation to the criteria for CGRs and local opinion, to justify a change to the current parish boundary.

Responses During Phase 2 Consultation

Phase 1 responses on this issue can be read at: www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/cgr

A. Fornham All Saints Parish Council

The Parish Council has not indicated that it wishes to change its original submission, which was to object to any proposed changes to the boundary between the parishes of Fornham All Saints and Fornham St Martin cum Genevieve along the area between Fornham Lock Bridge and the Sheepwash Bridge, adjacent to the sewage works entrance in Fornham St Martin. This was because electors had expressed the view to the Council that they wished to remain in the Parish of Fornham All Saints, on the basis of this reflecting their patterns of everyday life, and connections with the Parish.

B. Fornham St Martin cum Fornham St Genevieve Parish Council

The Parish Council has not indicated that it wishes to change its original submission, which was, following consultation with Fornham All Saints PC, to propose that the two properties within this area should fall with the parish of Fornham St Martin cum Fornham St Genevieve. This was on the basis of the river forming a natural boundary between the two parishes and such a change resulting in a more cohesive community and enabling more effective and convenient delivery of local services.

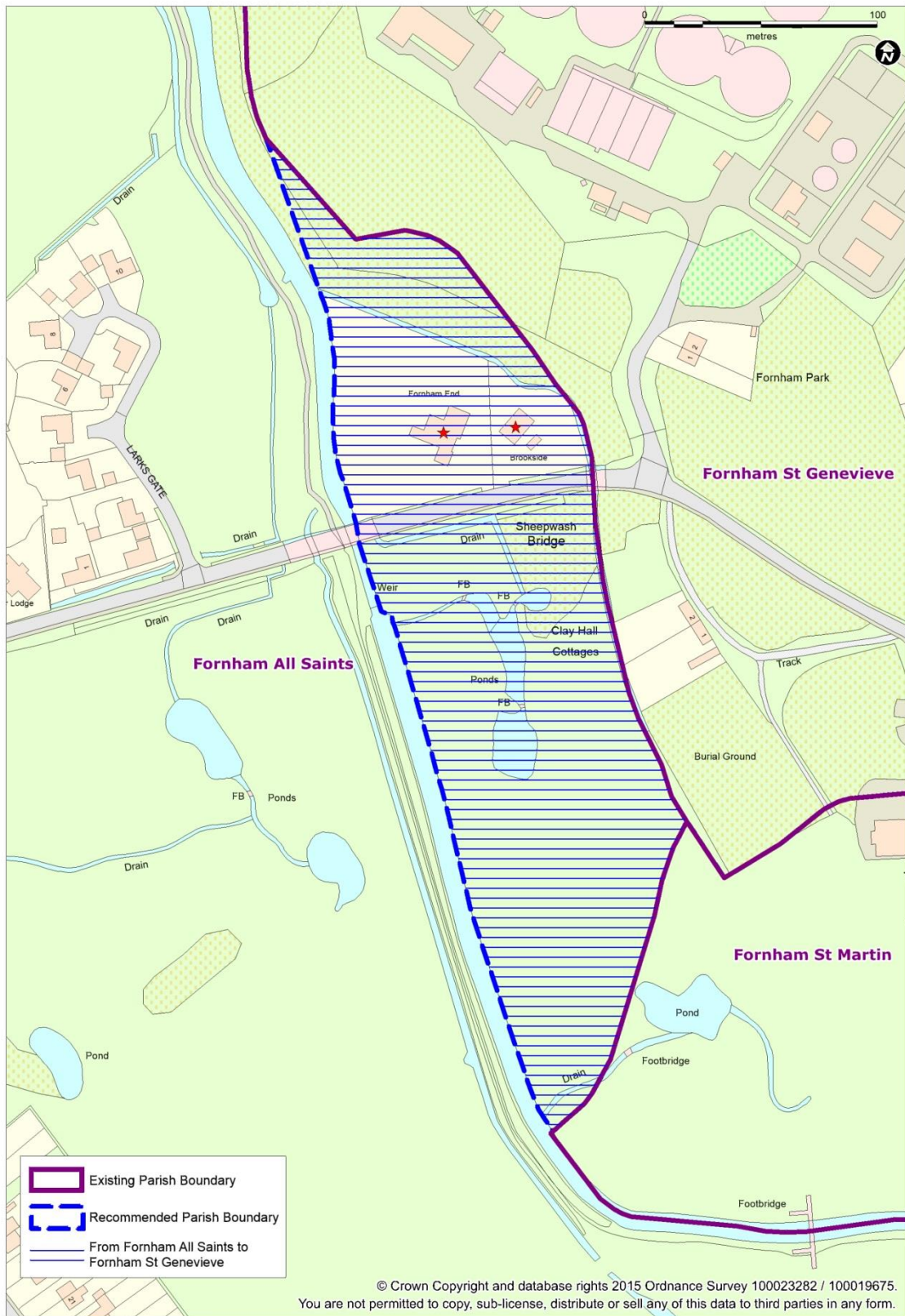
C. Local Electors

In the phase 1 consultation, responses were received from both properties, and opinion was divided. One elector, in one household, favoured the status quo (as they used the facilities in Fornham All Saints, had been a parish councillor in that Parish and felt no connection to Fornham St Genevieve). Two electors in the other household, however, favoured a change of Parish.

In phase 2, only the latter two electors have responded, to confirm their support for the recommendation. This time commenting:

- The river forms the natural border which is useful for visitors. Our house will be at the "end of" either village. Most new visitors think we are in Fornham St Genevieve now anyway.
- I am very happy to live in Fornham St Genevieve so long as my postcode does not change and my post is not interrupted. I call my art studio Genevieve Artworks so it suits me fine! And it's a lovely name!

Consultation Map N – Issue 20



No	Area or Properties Under Review	Parishes Directly Affected	Matter covered by final recommendation
25	Great and Little Thurlow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Great Thurlow •Little Thurlow 	Whether or not to combine the parish councils of Great and Little Thurlow.
Final Recommendation for Consultation			
<p>No change be made to the community governance arrangements for Little Thurlow and Great Thurlow at the current time.</p>			
<p>The reason for the recommendation is local preference - there is no consensus among the villages and local electors on whether or not to bring the two parishes together through formal changes to their electoral arrangements i.e. grouping or merging the two parishes to form one council.</p>			
<p>This issue was proposed by one of the two parishes for inclusion in (and examination under) the CGR. A range of views have been expressed in the first evidence gathering stage of the review, with no consensus emerging. In particular, Great Thurlow Parish Council has made it clear it favours no change to the current arrangements. It may also be that, reflecting subsequent comments from Little Thurlow Parish Council, it would be more appropriate to look at informal ways to build upon the successes of the existing joint arrangements between the two villages, outside of the formal constraints of a CGR process. This could link to the Council's Families and Communities Strategy and would not preclude this issue being returned to in any future CGR.</p>			
Potential Amendments to Recommendation Raised in Consultation			
<p>No suggested changes to the CGR recommendation were received but the Council will need to respond to one of the Parish Councils (as set out below) in respect of other matters.</p>			
Responses During Phase 2 Consultation			
<p><i>Responses received during Phase 1 can be read at: www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/cgr</i></p>			
<p>A. Great Thurlow Parish Council</p>			
<p>The Parish Council has not indicated that it wishes to change its previous response, which was to maintain its long-standing position that it did not wish to merge with Little Thurlow Parish Council.</p>			
<p>B. Little Thurlow Parish Council</p>			
<p>"As a Parish Council we were keen to review our governance and in particular to have even closer links with Great Thurlow Parish Council, which we already had including joint meetings three times a year for many years. We sought an independent review St Edmundsbury BC which was approved by the PC in January 2015. No visit or local review was forthcoming - it transpired it was down to the PC to do this. We had several meetings with GTPC but it was assumed by St Edmundsbury BC all along that merging of the two councils was what we wanted. We were well aware that GTPC have been against such a merger for years as they are still and that is why we sought an independent review.</p>			

The consequence of CGR process has in fact put the close links built up over the years between the two Parish Councils back to a far worse situation. Now we have no thrice yearly meetings, only extraordinary meetings. Nearly every function of the two villages involves a joint effort by both Councils and will continue to do so.

There has been no real financial or other advantages offered for councils to merge and we feel very strongly that this review has failed Great & Little Thurlow.

We conclude by again asking St Edmundsbury BC to undertake an independent review of both villages.

We look forward to hearing from you."

Officer response to the concerns of Little Thurlow Parish Council (and of local elector below)

This particular review arose from a request from Little Thurlow Parish Council during consultation on the terms of reference for the CGR in early 2015: "Little Thurlow Parish Council request that you carry out an Independent Review of the need for two Parish Councils for Thurlow under your Community Governance Review." In its phase 1 response in Autumn 2015, the Parish Council submitted a detailed argument in favour of a "Single Thurlow Parish Council".

It appears that, unfortunately, the expectations of the Parish Council for this CGR were different to those of the Borough Council in carrying it out. The Borough Council's adopted (and communicated) approach to the CGR was to encourage parishes and community groups to promote the review and debate their own governance arrangements locally, ahead of final consultation on recommendations in 2016. Particularly in those cases where all of the electors in a parish or parishes were affected and/or where it was a parish council or a community group itself which had suggested the CGR issue. A CGR must also be completed within 12 months, so the timetable and resources available are constrained. Parish Councils were given advance notice of each stage of consultation, and details of how it would be conducted.

A review of the type which Little Thurlow Parish Council appears to be seeking might best be facilitated by the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC), but would still require the consent of both parishes.

However, as explained in the final recommendation above, it would definitely be possible to look also at informal ways to build upon the successes of the existing joint arrangements between the two villages, outside of the formal constraints of a CGR process. This could link to the Council's Families and Communities Strategy and would not preclude any future CGR, if a local consensus for formal change ever emerged. In that context, the Locality Officer could be asked to talk to the two parish councils, involving the local ward member and County Councillor.

C. Local electors and businesses

One elector has advised the Council that she does not support the recommendation and prefers an alternative course of action as follows: *"The whole procedure with regard to Great and Little Thurlow was handled badly. It was left to the two Parish Councils to ensure that every parishioner was aware of the CGR when I feel it should have been St Edmundsbury BC's responsibility to contact each household in the two parishes by letter, as there are still some people who do not use a computer! It is therefore no wonder that there was "no consensus". As it was, Little Thurlow Parish Council endeavoured to explain the procedure in the local village magazine but Great Thurlow Parish Council did not. I feel it should not be down to the Parish Council to make the decision on behalf of the village, which is in effect what happened with Great Thurlow, of which I am a resident. This consultation caused bad feeling in the two villages which was surely not the intention."*

The Thurlow Estate advised the Council that it agreed with the recommendation.

D. County Councillor

Cllr Mary Evans has advised the Council that she supports the recommendation.