



## CORSHAM AND BOX BOUNDARY REVIEW

### Public Consultation Meeting

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at Corsham Community Campus**

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

A public meeting is being held at Corsham Community Campus on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October, from 8<sup>pm</sup> to 9pm, and an online questionnaire is available at: [http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/communitygovernancereview2015.htm#corsham\\_and\\_box](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/communitygovernancereview2015.htm#corsham_and_box).

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

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

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

The reasons for Corsham Town Council requesting a Review include:

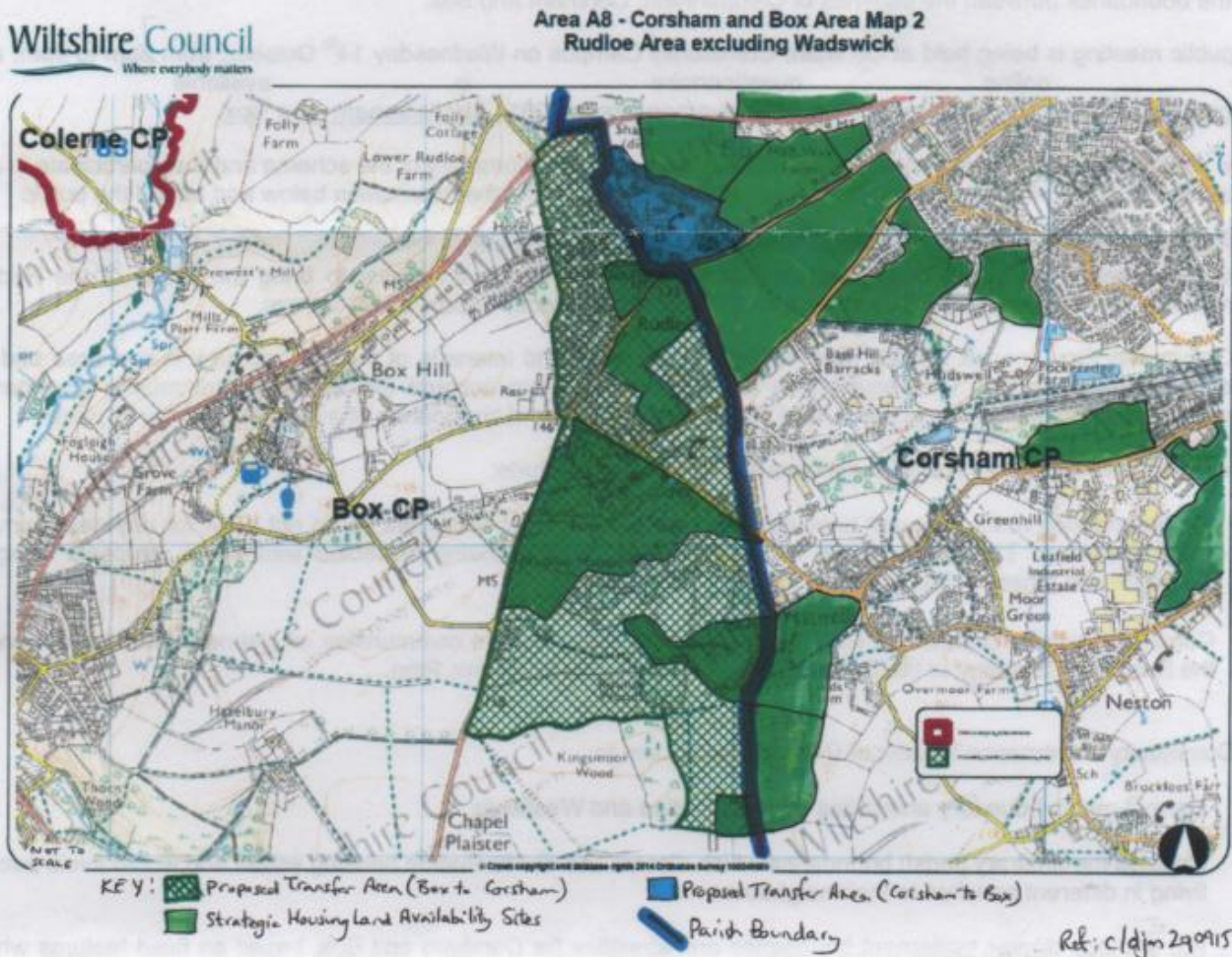
- The boundaries at the moment have not been reviewed in over 100 years so do not allow for any development since that time. This has resulted in the Rudloe community being dissected with some residents living in Corsham and others in Box.
- Corsham's current boundaries have little relevance to our current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

A Community Governance Review of Corsham would aim to:

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

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

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



(Fig. 1 – Proposals Plan)

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

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