

Essential Reference Paper B(i)

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL – REPORT ON RESPONSES TO INITIAL CONSULTATION

1. Introduction

The initial public consultation period for the Community Governance Review of Buntingford Town Council closed on Friday 6 April 2018. This Essential Reference Paper sets out the responses received to that consultation and summarises the main issues raised.

2. Consultation channels used

A dedicated web page was established for the Community Governance Review in the consultations section of the EHDC website. This included an online form for responses.

Consultation leaflets were distributed within the areas under review and delivered to each property directly affected by the Town Council's proposals. Community groups, business organisations and public services were contacted directly. A range of general publicity channels were used to publicise the review, both written and digital. In addition to the online form, responses were accepted in writing or by e-mail.

3. Responses received

In total 42 responses were received to the consultation – 32 via the online form and 10 others. The responses can be broken down as follows:-

Local residents	33	Aspenden Parish	0
		(of which Area 'B')	(0)
		Buntingford Parish	4
		Cottered Parish	29
		(of which Area 'A')	(18)
		Not stated	0
Organisations	8	Buntingford Civic Society	
		N E Herts Constituency Labour Party	
		Buntingford Town Council	
		Hertfordshire County Council	

		Cottered & Throcking Parish Council Cottered Village Hall Trust A Safer A507 Group Cottered Village Appreciation Society
Not stated	1	

All of the above responses are set out in the tables below.

4. Summary of findings and issues raised

(i) The parish boundary between Buntingford and Cottered

All 42 respondents provided their views on the proposal by Buntingford Town Council that the area north of Park Farm Industrial Estate (Area 'A'), currently forming part of Cottered Parish, should be transferred to become part of Buntingford Parish.

11 respondents agreed with the Town Council's proposal whilst 31 respondents opposed it.

Respondents completing the online form were asked to state whether in their opinion, people who live or work in Area 'A' identify more closely with Buntingford or with Cottered. 8 respondents answered Buntingford, 21 answered Cottered and 3 stated 'don't know'.

Responses in favour of the Town Council's proposal:-

The 11 respondents who supported the Town Council's proposal included Buntingford Town Council itself, Buntingford Civic Society, N E Herts Constituency Labour Party, Hertfordshire County Council and 7 local residents including 3 residents of Area 'A' itself.

Respondents provided a range of arguments in support of the Town Council's proposal. Buntingford Town Council considers that Area 'A' should form part of the Town Council's area 'for the well-being of residents, the positive contribution to the provision of services, the promotion of the feeling of local community and the creation of a viable administrative unit'. The Town Council states that the development north of Buntingford has been included within the settlement boundary of Buntingford in the adopted Buntingford Community Area Neighbourhood Plan and the emerging East Herts District Plan. The Town

Council delivers its newsletters and circulars to properties within Area 'A' and states that residents visit the Town Council offices for information and advice.

Some respondents supporting the change reiterated the Town Council's view that the area under review is closer to Buntingford town than to Cottered village, and is physically linked to the town, with good pedestrian access to the amenities of Buntingford which residents look to and identify with. Other respondents pointed out that the development to the north of the town is currently divided between the two parishes and/or considered that residents would be using services provided by the Town Council and should therefore contribute to the precept and be represented on that Council.

One respondent suggested that as further development takes place, a wider review of the electoral arrangements in Buntingford may be required in future, possibly including warding of the Town Council.

Responses opposing the Town Council's proposal:-

The 31 respondents opposing the change included Cottered & Throcking Parish Council, Cottered Village Hall Trust, A Safer A 507 Group, Cottered Village Appreciation Society and 31 local residents, including 15 of the 18 residents of Area 'A' who responded.

Cottered & Throcking Parish Council urges East Herts DC to find that no alterations shall be made to the present positions of the civil parish and town boundaries between Buntingford and Cottered & Throcking. The Parish Council has provided detailed information in support of this recommendation, referring to geography; the historical evolution of the parish and its community; facilities, finance and services; democracy and representation; the views of other local organisations; relevant reviews and decisions elsewhere.

The Parish Council is also concerned about what it sees as shortcomings in the procedure and timetable for the review and the possibility that the District Council's conclusion may be affected by an imbalance between the access and resources available to Buntingford Town Council and Cottered & Throcking Parish Council in making their submissions.

Specific points raised by the Parish Council and other respondents who oppose the Town Council's proposal include:-

- The northern part of Area 'A' is as close to the centre of Cottered as to the A10 roundabout and residential and commercial developments at the southern gateway to Buntingford.

- Area 'A' is separated from other housing in Buntingford by a school, playing fields and an industrial estate.
- Ermine Street is a clear historic feature and an appropriate parish boundary.
- Most vehicular traffic to and from Parkside and the Redrow site once built will be via the bypass and through Cottered and Throcking Parish.
- Optional facilities and services are as likely to be provided for residents by Cottered & Throcking Parish Council as by Buntingford Town Council.
- The projected number of residents in Area 'A' as a proportion of the whole of Cottered & Throcking Parish means that, given the additional funds that would be available to the Parish Council through precept and New Homes Bonus, those residents would be paid more attention and be better supported within Cottered & Throcking Parish than if Area 'A' becomes part of Buntingford, where they will have less influence on decisions.
- The Parish Council and other organisations have surveyed local residents and consider that they wish the boundaries to remain unchanged.
- Cottered & Throcking Parish Council is better equipped to represent the current and future residents of Area 'A' than Buntingford Town Council.
- The review is unnecessary and not broadly supported. There are no good reasons for changing the boundary.
- Changing the boundary would adversely affect the villages whereas retention of the current boundary would allow for the potential to increase the infrastructure of the parish.
- If the boundary is changed, Cottered will be deprived of much needed funds. Smaller communities must receive available funding to thrive, including support for historic buildings, traffic-calming measures and allotments.

Cottered Village Hall Trust and a number of other respondents have stated that they believe the Town Council's proposal is made purely for financial reasons and that the New Homes Bonus monies due in respect of development within Cottered Parish should be put to beneficial use within that parish.

A number of respondents stated that the review is premature and/or that Buntingford Town Council has no mandate for its proposal from future owners of the most affected homes (in Area 'A'), many of which have still to be built.

Alternative proposal:-

Cottered Village Appreciation Society has proposed that if there is to be any boundary change, a better option would be to include the area bounded by the

historical pathway from Throcking to Ermine Street (including Freman College and Park Farm Industrial Estate) into Cottered Parish.

(ii) The parish boundary between Buntingford and Aspenden

35 respondents provided their views on the proposal by Buntingford Town Council that the area covered by Buntingford Business Park (Area 'B'), currently forming part of Aspenden Parish, should be transferred to become part of Buntingford Parish.

15 respondents agreed with the Town Council's proposal whilst 20 respondents opposed the change.

Respondents completing the online form were asked to state whether in their opinion, people who live/work in Area 'B' identified more closely with Aspenden or with Buntingford. 10 respondents answered Aspenden, 9 answered Buntingford and 13 stated 'don't know'.

TABLES ATTACHED

- TABLE 1 – Initial consultation responses received via web form (W1 – W32)
- TABLE 2 – Initial consultation responses received via e-mail or letter (M1 – M10)

TABLE 1 - COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL – INITIAL CONSULTATION RESPONSES RECEIVED VIA WEB FORM

No.	Respondent (& parish/ area if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BTC area?	Do people who live/ work in area 'A' identify with Bunt'fd or Cottered?	Reasons	Agree that Area 'B' should become part of BTC area?	Do people who live/ work in area 'B' identify w/Bunt'fd or Aspenden?	Reasons	Any other comments
W1	Local resident Buntingford	Yes	Buntingford		Yes	Don't know		The Buntingford Ecclesiastical Parish boundary has recently been altered to include area 'A'.
W2	Local resident Buntingford	Yes	Buntingford		Yes	Buntingford		
W3	Local resident Cottered	No	Cottered	Door to door research indicates that current residents express a desire to remain within the Cottered Parish.	No	Don't know		I shall be submitting further documentation before the 6 April.
W4	Local resident Cottered	No	Don't know	Until the new Redrow development Buntingford expressed little interest in the residents of Parkside. The new site is divided from Buntingford by allotments, an industrial estate and substantial school playing fields. There is a separate access/entry from the A10 Buntingford bypass and residents do not have to access via the high street. The new residents of the	No	Aspenden	These developments have been developed and sold as being part of rural parishes not as urbanised expansion.	Buntingford Town Council serves some 5000 inhabitants and therefore offers a less personal link than that enjoyed by the 500 residents of Cottered and Throcking. If the boundary is

No.	Respondent (& parish/ area if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BTC area?	Do people who live/ work in area 'A' identify with Bunt'fd or Cottered?	Reasons	Agree that Area 'B' should become part of BTC area?	Do people who live/ work in area 'B' identify w/Bunt'fd or Aspenden?	Reasons	Any other comments
				Redrow development have had their homes sold to them as being in the parish of Cottered and pay less for services then if they were in Buntingford. I believe this is a cynical money grab by Buntingford Town Council to get hold of the new Homes bonus that by rights should be paid to Cottered Parish especially as the homes have been built in Cottered and occupied whilst the development is in Cottered and Throcking Parish.				changed the people in the area transferred will receive a less personal experience then those remaining in Cottered, Throcking and Aspenden as well as remove badly needed precept from the Parishes in which the homes have been built.
W5	Chair, Buntingford Civic Society	Yes	Buntingford	I write on behalf of Buntingford Town Council to fully support the revision of the Community Governance Boundary to include development taking place to the north of Buntingford parish boundary, Parkside and Buntingford Business Park. The Civic Society believes that electors who reside or will reside in the development to the north of Buntingford and Parkside	Yes	Buntingford	As above	The Civic Society firmly believes that development taking place north of Buntingford, Parkside and the Buntingford Business Park should fall within the Parish Boundary of Buntingford for the

No.	Respondent (& parish/ area if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BTC area?	Do people who live/ work in area 'A' identify with Bunt'fd or Cottered?	Reasons	Agree that Area 'B' should become part of BTC area?	Do people who live/ work in area 'B' identify w/Bunt'fd or Aspenden?	Reasons	Any other comments
				<p>identify clearly with the parish of Buntingford. Currently both of these areas fall within the parish boundary of Cottered, the settlement of which is in the region of 2.7 miles from the areas under review. The centre of Buntingford is a short walk from the properties and all services and amenities required are provided in Buntingford. In addition, the new development north of Buntingford is divided, in that some of the site falls within the Buntingford parish boundary and some falls within the Cottered boundary.</p>				<p>well-being of residents, the positive contribution to the provision of services, the promotion of the feeling of local community and the creation of a viable administrative unit.</p>
W6	<p>Vice Chair/on behalf of: NE Herts Constituency Labour Party and Local Resident in Buntingford</p>	Yes	Buntingford	<p>Whilst the developments in Area A are not complete residents there will certainly feel that they are part of Buntingford being immediately adjacent to the existing town with all its facilities as opposed to Cottered, a small village, which is 2.1/2 miles away over narrow country roads with virtually no facilities.</p>	Yes	Buntingford	<p>Again, Area B is immediately adjacent to Buntingford and being an employment area people there naturally use the town's facilities.</p>	<p>Clearly with Buntingford's population set to increase by 50% because of the various housing developments taking place then governance arrangements will</p>

No.	Respondent (& parish/ area if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BTC area?	Do people who live/ work in area 'A' identify with Bunt'fd or Cottered?	Reasons	Agree that Area 'B' should become part of BTC area?	Do people who live/ work in area 'B' identify w/Bunt'fd or Aspenden?	Reasons	Any other comments
				Buntingford Town Council maintains a full time Clerk's Office to handle queries and has a number of its own facilities.				need to be reviewed both at Town and District level. Possible areas for review might be the number of Town Councillors and warding; say East/West or North/South to bring Councillors closer to their constituents. Similarly the geographically large District Ward of Buntingford may need to be reviewed due to the concentration of population in Buntingford.
W7	Local resident Cottered	No	Cottered	How can you answer the Question above, as less than 20 houses are occupied on this development, so this will hardly	Yes	Buntingford		This whole process is flawed!!

No.	Respondent (& parish/ area if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BTC area?	Do people who live/ work in area 'A' identify with Bunt'fd or Cottered?	Reasons	Agree that Area 'B' should become part of BTC area?	Do people who live/ work in area 'B' identify w/Bunt'fd or Aspenden?	Reasons	Any other comments
				<p>be a majority as is required. A straw poll of Parkside residents has indicated that they wish to remain in the Cottered Parish. Blatant disregard has been given to the 2007 Act, there has been little or no consultation. Many East Herts documents (since 2007) have indicated that this area is already in Buntingford. Overall a very poor attempt to land grab, and plenty of evidence the consultation is not transparent with several key East Herts councillors unfortunately in key positions that will influence the outcome.</p>				
W8	Local residents Cottered (Area 'A')	No	Don't know	We are separate from Buntingford and do not have all the facilities provided in the town. Rates are lower.	No	Don't know		
W9	Local resident Cottered	No	Cottered	Cottered's needs have been neglected for many decades. The New Homes Bonus associated with the 180 houses in the Redrow development would make a very significant difference	No	Don't know		

No.	Respondent (& parish/ area if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BTC area?	Do people who live/ work in area 'A' identify with Bunt'fd or Cottered?	Reasons	Agree that Area 'B' should become part of BTC area?	Do people who live/ work in area 'B' identify w/Bunt'fd or Aspenden?	Reasons	Any other comments
				<p>to Cottered parishioners. The new residents in the Redrow homes will be warmly welcomed to our parish, strengthening the natural link between Cottered and Buntingford, and EHDC should rightly respect this traditional boundary which was established centuries ago. The fact that the New Homes Bonus has been 'ring-fenced' by the EHDC Chief Executive until the boundary review has been decided strongly suggests that the Bonus itself is a significant motivator for the request for a boundary review. This is undemocratic, since the Redrow homes which lie in Cottered parish are not yet fully occupied and the homeowners cannot all participate in the consultation. Please respect the needs and valuable contribution to the District which is made by Cottered Parish, and do not deny us the opportunity to welcome</p>				

No.	Respondent (& parish/ area if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BTC area?	Do people who live/ work in area 'A' identify with Bunt'fd or Cottered?	Reasons	Agree that Area 'B' should become part of BTC area?	Do people who live/ work in area 'B' identify w/Bunt'fd or Aspenden?	Reasons	Any other comments
				180 new households into our community. Thank you.				
W10	Local resident Cottered	No	Cottered	20 houses only occupied on the Redrow Estate, also Parkside do not want to be part of Buntingford and have been part of the Cottered Parish 100's of years, so therefore there has not been a majority vote until the rest of Redrow Estate is fully occupied and their views consulted. The Boundary review should be postponed until such times as the new residents can be consulted. Very little evidence to show conformance to the 2007 Regulations.	Yes	Don't know		Someone I know has also done this form, but it appears when a copy is received via email of your comments, only some of the text box response is included. Hopefully my comments in full will be received. If not then something is very wrong with this system.
W11	Local resident Cottered	No	Cottered	I have only heard about this from a friend who is a Parish Councillor, I have received no information otherwise about this. I consider this to be outrageous, as no-one can comment on this if they are not aware. Why has there been no leaflet or other information to all households it	No	Don't know		

No.	Respondent (& parish/ area if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BTC area?	Do people who live/ work in area 'A' identify with Bunt'fd or Cottered?	Reasons	Agree that Area 'B' should become part of BTC area?	Do people who live/ work in area 'B' identify w/Bunt'fd or Aspenden?	Reasons	Any other comments
				affects?				
W12	Local resident Cottered (Area 'A')	Yes	Buntingford		Yes	Don't know		
W13	Local resident Cottered (Area 'A')	No	Cottered	We have lived in Parkside for 7 years and identify strongly with Cottered. Attending fundraising events, Guide headquarters, village hall events, friends and much more. We use facilities in Royston equally as much as Buntingford and to suggest that our location means we use Buntingford for shopping and recreation more than Cottered residents is simply misguided - as Cottered doesn't have any shops then it is safe to assume most residents use Buntingford. We are proud to be in the parish and would like to stay as such. The new Redrow development has no history with Cottered and therefore probably does and should be in the Buntingford parish.	Yes	Buntingford	It is only an assumption, however since the business park has no residents that I am aware of the issue is less emotive.	

No.	Respondent (& parish/ area if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BTC area?	Do people who live/ work in area 'A' identify with Bunt'fd or Cottered?	Reasons	Agree that Area 'B' should become part of BTC area?	Do people who live/ work in area 'B' identify w/Bunt'fd or Aspenden?	Reasons	Any other comments
W14	Local resident Cottered (Area 'A')	Yes	Buntingford	Feeling part of the local community, better for the residents and for services	Yes	Buntingford		
W15	Local resident Buntingford	Yes	Buntingford		Yes	Buntingford		No
W16	Local resident Cottered (Area 'A')	No	Cottered	We have close links with the parish, married in the parish and use Cottered and Royston amenities equally with Buntingford. A change of parish is unnecessary and would increase our council tax which we can ill afford.	No	Don't know		
W17	Local resident Cottered (Area 'A')	No	Cottered	The decision should be based upon a geographical and historical boundary and NOTHING else.	No	Aspenden		
W18	Local resident Cottered (Area 'A')	No	Cottered	We love being part of the Cottered Parish and village life and we use the village hall for many occasions. Our son also benefited from attending the Pre-school in Cottered which boasted a very rural setting. We live about a mile out of Buntingford and	No	Aspenden	Aspenden like Cottered/Throcking have the same values. The residents of these areas move there for the rural setting and village life. Becoming part of Buntingford gets rid of those village values.	Cottered/Throcking thrive on village life and moving the boundary decreases new involvement for villages to survive. We love village life

No.	Respondent (& parish/ area if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BTC area?	Do people who live/ work in area 'A' identify with Bunt'fd or Cottered?	Reasons	Agree that Area 'B' should become part of BTC area?	Do people who live/ work in area 'B' identify w/Bunt'fd or Aspenden?	Reasons	Any other comments
				love the rural setting that we live in and all that Throcking and Cottered have to offer. If we wanted to live in the Buntingford Parish we would have chosen to buy a house there but Buntingford in Contrast to Throcking/Cottered is very built up and does not provide our family with the ethos we want to give our family.				and all they have to offer.
W19	Local resident Cottered (Area 'A')	No	Cottered	We feel very much part of Cottered/Throcking community and think bringing new houses to the village is great as this helps with the infer structure of an otherwise dying community. Why does everything always come down to money? If Buntingford town council didn't receive any money from the government for houses being build would the town council still want the boundaries moved ?.. I don't think so.	No	Aspenden	Same reasons as above.	
W20	Local resident	No	Cottered		No	Aspenden		

No.	Respondent (& parish/ area if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BTC area?	Do people who live/ work in area 'A' identify with Bunt'fd or Cottered?	Reasons	Agree that Area 'B' should become part of BTC area?	Do people who live/ work in area 'B' identify w/Bunt'fd or Aspenden?	Reasons	Any other comments
	Cottered (Area 'A')							
W21	Local resident Cottered (Area 'A')	No	Cottered		No	Aspenden		
W22	Local resident Cottered (Area 'A')	No	Cottered		No	Aspenden		
W23	Local resident Cottered (Area 'A')	No	Cottered		Yes	Buntingford		
W24	Local resident Cottered (Area 'A')	No	Cottered		Yes	Aspenden		
W25	Local resident Buntingford	Yes	Buntingford		Yes	Buntingford		
W26	Local resident Cottered (Area 'A')	No	Cottered	Buntingford Council have shown no interest in the land since the bypass was built. They are only showing interest now because of the Government handout for new houses built. If the proposal is	No	Don't know	We identify with Cottered.	The boundaries have been of no detriment since their existence and there is no need to change them.

No.	Respondent (& parish/ area if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BTC area?	Do people who live/ work in area 'A' identify with Bunt'fd or Cottered?	Reasons	Agree that Area 'B' should become part of BTC area?	Do people who live/ work in area 'B' identify w/Bunt'fd or Aspenden?	Reasons	Any other comments
				accepted then the decision should be made after the Cottered Parish has been given the Government allowance for the new houses that are being built in their parish. This is a blatant land grab by Buntingford Council to increase their funding.				
W27	Local resident Cottered (Area 'A')	No	Cottered	Cottered has dealt with us for years. Buntingford not interested until money came along.	No	Aspenden		You sent a very condescending letter to explain why this should happen but really it's just about money. Buntingford Town Council are really ruining Buntingford and I would rather stay with Cottered Parish.
W28	Local resident Cottered (Area 'A')	No	Cottered	I, and most of the people I know, work outside the town and parish boundaries and my family's social contacts are widespread.	No	Aspenden	The A10 is an important and pronounced physical boundary.	In connection with the planning application for the Redrow site, the town council stated in their letter dated

No.	Respondent (& parish/ area if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BTC area?	Do people who live/ work in area 'A' identify with Bunt'fd or Cottered?	Reasons	Agree that Area 'B' should become part of BTC area?	Do people who live/ work in area 'B' identify w/Bunt'fd or Aspenden?	Reasons	Any other comments
								6 September 2013 that the site had "effective boundaries to contain urban sprawl" but the northern tip of the land which Buntingford Town Council wishes to include within the town boundary is a long way from the town centre and is closer to Chipping.
W29	Local resident Cottered	No	Cottered	The Government Guidance requires the main people affected should be consulted. However only approximately of the 180 new houses being constructed are currently occupied, hence the review is be conducted too early.	No	Don't know		No
W30	Local resident Cottered (Area 'A')	No	Don't know	The Parish borders are perfectly fine as they are. There are no advantages to the residents of the affected areas that would	No	Don't know		There are no valid reasons for changing the Parish border.

No.	Respondent (& parish/ area if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BTC area?	Do people who live/ work in area 'A' identify with Bunt'fd or Cottered?	Reasons	Agree that Area 'B' should become part of BTC area?	Do people who live/ work in area 'B' identify w/Bunt'fd or Aспенden?	Reasons	Any other comments
				require or would be gained by a Parish boundary change. However there are disadvantages associated with becoming part of the Buntingford Parish, such as higher rates of Council Tax etc. I would like to stay in Cottered Parish and I reject the proposal to become part of Buntingford Parish.				
W31	Local resident Cottered	No	Cottered	The reasons are compellingly set out in the submission made by Cottered and Throcking Parish Council.	No	Don't know		I endorse the comments made in the submission by Cottered and Throcking Parish Council.
W32	Local resident Cottered	No	Cottered	I agree with Cottered & Throcking Parish Council's view.	No	Don't know		I entirely agree with the comments in Cottered & Throcking Parish Council's submission.

TABLE 2 - COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL – INITIAL CONSULTATION RESPONSES RECEIVED VIA E-MAIL OR LETTER

No.	Channel	Respondent	If local resident, ward	Content of response
M1	E-mail	Local resident	Cottered	Dear Sir/Madam, We live at in the parish of Cottered. We would like to say "No" to the proposal to change the Parish boundaries. Yours Faithfully.
M2	E-mail	Local residents	Cottered (Area 'A')	<p>As a long-time resident of Prestwick, I ask that you consider my comments in the forthcoming boundary review. The area currently in the Cottered Parish and marked 'A' in the "Have Your Say" leaflet produced by East Herts Council, is of particular interest to me.</p> <p>Prestwick and Parkside are no longer an isolated settlement. Recent and ongoing development on land north of Buntingford now joins us physically to the town.</p> <p>Proposed and ongoing changes and improvements to Ermine Street are making pedestrian access to the town much easier. Many walk this route every day. New bus routes will also service our community.</p> <p>We identify with Buntingford and use the facilities the town provides every day. Becoming part of Buntingford Parish will promote better community engagement and local democracy. The existing Parish boundary divides the community, it does not reflect the distinct identities of these respective areas. Cottered, as a settlement, is very remote from us, particularly since the advent of the Town Bypass, a clear and permanent line which effectively divides us from the open farmland to the west, towards Throcking and Cottered. We are no longer a recognisable part those settlements.</p> <p>Our contact with Cottered Parish Council has been minimal over the last 30 years. Being part of Buntingford may well increase our council tax precept but we are convinced we will get massive benefits from belonging to this larger and more local community.</p> <p>We look forward to the opportunity to vote for and become further involved in the future shaping of this expanding community.</p>
M3	E-mail	Buntingford Town Council		<p>I write on behalf of Buntingford Town Council to fully support the revision of the Community Governance Boundary to include development taking place to the north of Buntingford parish boundary, Parkside and Buntingford Business Park.</p> <p>We believe that electors who reside or will reside in the development to the north of Buntingford and Parkside identify clearly with the parish of Buntingford. Currently both of these areas fall within the parish boundary of Cottered, the settlement of which is in the region of 2.7 miles from the areas under review. The centre of Buntingford is a short walk from the properties and all services and amenities</p>

No.	Channel	Respondent	If local resident, ward	Content of response
				<p>required are provided in Buntingford. In addition, the new development north of Buntingford is divided, in that some of the site falls within the Buntingford parish boundary and some falls within the Cottered boundary. The Town Council now delivers its newsletters and circulars to all properties on the new development and Parkside, effectively engaging with these residents to facilitate participation in the decision making process. Residents visit the Town Council offices to obtain information and advice on amongst other things, transport links, Highways issues and planning matters.</p> <p>If the parish boundary is revised, residents of the two areas (north of Buntingford and Parkside), will contribute to the precept that promotes the well-being of their area and provides the services required in that area. Democratically, the residents would be able to vote for the local Councillors who most represent them and provide the services that they use. The revision will provide for effective and convenient local government</p> <p>The development north of Buntingford has been included within the settlement boundary of Buntingford in the adopted Buntingford Community Area Neighbourhood Plan and the emerging East Herts District Plan.</p> <p>All three areas under consideration reflect the distinct community identity of Buntingford. A parish boundary which includes the proposed three areas is clearly definable and identifiable with the built up area of the town.</p> <p>The Buntingford Business Park is identified as one of four designated employment areas in Buntingford in the draft East Herts District plan (Policy Bunt3). Users of the Business Park have use of the services provided in Buntingford and the name of the site suggests that it falls within the town.</p> <p>To conclude, the Town Council firmly believes that development taking place north of Buntingford, Parkside and the Buntingford Business Park should fall within the Parish Boundary of Buntingford for the well-being of residents, the positive contribution to the provision of services, the promotion of the feeling of local community and the creation of a viable administrative unit.</p>
M4	E-mail	Hertfordshire County Council		Hertfordshire County Council considers that the proposals outlined in the Community Governance Review for Buntingford appear to have a reasonable rationale and do not have any impact on the coterminosity with the County Electoral Division of Buntingford.
M5	Letter / e-mail	Cottered and Throcking Parish		<p>See documents included in Essential Reference Paper B(ii):-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial submission by Cottered & Throcking Parish Council - Appendix 1 – Redrow Homes news release

No.	Channel	Respondent	If local resident, ward	Content of response
		Council		- Appendix 2 – Petition urging no change to the Cottered/Buntingford boundary, signed by 14 residents of Parkside and Royston Road (within Area 'A')
M6	E-mail	Not stated		Dear Sirs, As far as I know, for around 1,000 years the boundary between Buntingford and Cottered & Throcking has existed. Therefore, I feel that it should not be changed just because the area is currently under development.
M7	Letter	Cottered Village Hall Trust		See letter included in Essential Reference Paper B(ii)
M8	Letter	A Safer A507 Group		See letter included in Essential Reference Paper B(ii)
M9	Letter	Cottered Village Appreciation Society		See letter included in Essential Reference Paper B(ii)
M10	Letter	Local resident	Cottered	See letter included in Essential Reference Paper B(ii)