

Essential Reference Paper B (i)

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF BISHOP'S STORTFORD TOWN COUNCIL – REPORT ON RESPONSES TO INITIAL CONSULTATION

1. Introduction

The initial public consultation period for the Community Governance Review of Bishop's Stortford 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 125 responses to the consultation were received directly from individuals and organisations – 102 via the online form and 23 others. The direct responses can be broken down as follows:-

Local residents	108	BS South Ward Thorley Urban Ward BS Central Ward BS Silverleys Ward BS All Saints Ward Thorley Rural Ward Not stated	64 23 6 5 4 3 3
Local employee/business person	1	BS South Ward	1
Members of Thorley Cricket Club	6		
Organisations	9	Bishop's Stortford Civic Federation Hertford & Stortford Conservative Association Thorley Parish Council x 2 Hertfordshire County Council Bishop's Stortford Town Council Hockerill Residents' Association Town Mayor, Bishop's Stortford Town Council The Hundred Parishes Society Old Thorley & Twyford Residents' Association	

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

In addition, 394 individually signed pro-forma letters were received, objecting to the proposed Thorley boundary change. The large majority of addresses given on these letters are in Bishop's Stortford (most in South ward) or Thorley. A very small minority of addresses are from elsewhere in East Herts or outside the district.

Finally a petition was received, signed by a total of 960 persons, calling for no change to the current boundary between Thorley village and Bishop's Stortford. The large majority of addresses given on the petition are in Bishop's Stortford (all wards represented) or Thorley. A small minority of addresses are from elsewhere in East Herts or outside the district.

4. Summary of findings and issues raised

(i) The parish boundary between Bishop's Stortford and Thorley

All but one of the 125 individuals and organisations responding to the consultation provided their views on the proposal by Bishop's Stortford Town Council that the area currently forming Thorley Parish Urban ward should be transferred to become part of Bishop's Stortford Parish.

8 respondents agreed with the Town Council's proposal either in full or in part. 2 respondents sought further information. 114 respondents opposed the change.

Respondents completing the online form were asked to state whether in their opinion, residents of the existing Thorley Urban Ward identified more closely with Bishop's Stortford or with Thorley. 92 respondents answered Thorley, 3 answered Bishop's Stortford and 7 stated 'don't know'.

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

The 8 respondents who submitted responses in support of the Town Council's proposal included Bishop's Stortford Town Council itself, Hertford & Stortford Conservative Association, Hockerill Residents' Association, and the Town Mayor, Bishop's Stortford Town Council.

The Town Council made the following arguments in support of its proposal:-

- a) St Michaels Mead is contiguous with the built up area of BS but is split between the Parishes of BS and Thorley, an unnatural administrative division of a single housing area.
- b) This will also apply to the proposed area known as 'Land South of Bishop's Stortford', allocated principally for housing in the emerging District plan.
- c) The residents of the above developments do or will expect to take advantage of the services provided by BSTC.
- d) The proposed boundary and in particular the bypass forms a more natural boundary between a rural area and the contiguous built up area of BS.
- e) The current boundary fails to meet the criteria for parish boundaries set out in the DCLG guidance; and

- f) The parish boundaries other than as specified above represent natural and defensible boundaries meeting the criteria set out by DCLG.

Other respondents in favour of the change stated that residents would use the facilities and services provided by BSTC and would be better represented on the town council, and that the by-pass represents a more realistic boundary which would resolve an anomaly between the town council and district ward boundaries.

Responses opposing the Town Council's proposal:-

114 respondents opposed the change, including Bishop's Stortford Civic Federation, Thorley Parish Council, The Hundred Parishes Society, Old Thorley & Twyford Residents' Association and 22 of the 23 responding residents of the area directly affected (Thorley Urban Ward).

In addition as previously mentioned, 394 proforma letters and a petition signed by 960 persons also opposed the proposed change.

Respondents opposing the change referred to Thorley having a distinctive rural character and community identity separate from Bishop's Stortford. Some consider that the Town Council is not representative of local views or that the proposals are driven by financial or political factors.

A number of respondents stated that Thorley Parish Council currently performs well on behalf of residents and others pointed out that if the Town Council's proposals are agreed, Thorley Parish would be left with very few electors and the viability of the parish council would be threatened.

A number of respondents stated that the Town Council had not provided sufficient evidence to support their proposal in the context of the criteria for the review. Others considered that the review is premature as the BISH5 development is not yet fully approved and if confirmed will not be fully built and occupied for many years.

It must be noted that many respondents opposing the proposal have cited planning rather than governance issues. Many have referred to perceived over-development of Bishop's Stortford and inadequate infrastructure to cope with large numbers of new homes. Most oppose development in the Thorley area, such as the proposed Bishop's Stortford South development, and some feel the Town Council's proposals are intended to enable more development on green belt land or to remove Thorley Parish Council and stakeholders from the masterplanning process in the district plan. Some respondents consider that Thorley Parish Council will better represent the views of residents on planning applications than Bishop's Stortford Town Council.

There are a number of references to Thorley Village being for planning purposes a Group 3 village within the emerging East Herts District Plan which as such would not be expected to accommodate the same level of development as Group 1 and Group 2 villages. However, this would not be affected by the proposed boundary change. The emerging East Herts

District Plan includes an urban extension to Bishop's Stortford known as Bishop's Stortford South which falls partly within the wider Parish of Thorley, but not in Thorley Village itself.

Alternative proposals:-

3 respondents suggested an alternative change to the boundary. They considered that a more logical and less radical change would be for Thorley Parish Council instead to take over the fringe areas of Bishop's Stortford up to the south side of Whittington Way and Obrey Way to Thorley Street including Thorley Lane East/Church Lane and the Thorley cricket field.

Another respondent suggested that all of St Michael's Mead should be in Bishop's Stortford, along with other areas inside the bypass if they are developed, and to maintain a viable Thorley Parish the properties on Thorley Street could remain in Thorley parish.

Both Thorley Parish Council and the Old Thorley and Twyford Residents' Association indicated in their responses that they intend to bring forward counter proposals.

(ii) The proposed detailed changes to ward boundaries within Bishop's Stortford

Only 12 respondents made any substantive comments about the detailed ward boundary proposals.

Of these, 1 opposed the changes and 4 stated 'no comment' or similar. The other 7 respondents were broadly supportive of the changes, seeing them as generally sensible proposals to address anomalies arising from new developments that had been built across the existing ward boundaries.

One respondent stated that 'BS Central needs complete redrawing as it doesn't include much of the town centre. There might need to be wide ranging changes once BS North is developed, as this could be a good opportunity to start afresh'.

One respondent felt that consideration should be given to reducing the number of town councillors, pointing out that the BSTC wards were relatively well represented compared to district council or county council representation.

TABLES ATTACHED

- TABLE 1 – Initial consultation responses received via web form (W1 – W102)
- TABLE 2 – Initial consultation responses received via e-mail or letter (M1 – M25)

TABLE 1 - COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF BISHOP'S STORTFORD TOWN COUNCIL – INITIAL CONSULTATION RESPONSES RECEIVED VIA WEB FORM

No.	Respondent	Ward (if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BSTC area?	Do people who live/work in Area 'A' identify more with BS or Thorley?	Reasons	Any comments on changes to ward boundaries within BSTC?
W1	Local resident	Thorley Urban	No	Thorley	This area is Thorley and the area where I live has been part of Thorley for 20 years. We feel part of the rural Thorley area and the parish of Thorley.	
W2	Local resident	BS South	Yes	Thorley	Bigger voice to discuss or promote local Thorley issues.	
W3	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley		
W4	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	Parish Councils in general, and certainly Thorley Parish Council, are the last bastion of politics-free involvement in local administration, unlike town and district councils where political considerations override residents' concerns. The proposed 'Stortford South Development' is in the green belt with no outstanding reason to remove the green belt (except politics) and it would occupy about half the land mass of Thorley Parish Council, with the proposed change also taking some (or all?) of Thorley Street. This would effectively wipe out the parish and obviously the Parish Council. Is that local democracy? If you don't know the answer, it is a resounding NO.	
W5	Local resident	Thorley Urban	No	Thorley		
W6	Local resident	Thorley Urban	No	Thorley	The green belt site affected by this proposal has been under threat of development for years. I have lived in the town for over 40 years and enough is enough. Please stop over developing the town. Bishops Stortford council is not worthy of controlling anymore of the open spaces in our town, all you will	

No.	Respon- dent	Ward (if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BSTC area?	Do people who live/work in Area 'A' identify more with BS or Thorley?	Reasons	Any comments on changes to ward boundaries within BSTC?
					do is give permission for more building work as soon as you get hold of it. Please stop and leave well alone.	
W7	Local resident	BS Silverleys	No	Thorley	I believe this is a cynical exercise to ensure that the District Plan can change the Green Belt boundaries. This is not supported by Thorley Parish Council and should not go ahead. There are no coherent reasons for making any changes to boundaries and they should remain as they are.	
W8	Local resident	Thorley Urban	No	Thorley	I strongly oppose the proposal to incorporate the area marked A into Bishop's Stortford Parish. The Parish of Thorley has a rich history and a distinct identity from Bishop's Stortford Town. Despite development of Thorley over the last 50 years, old Thorley (covering the area near St James' church, Thorley Street and Twyford/Pig Lane) still has a distinctive 'village' feel with a 'village' sense of community. Where I live (Pig Lane) is a rural area which has different needs and identity from the town. Our family (my husband and I and our 3 young children, all under 7) enjoy the privileges of living in such a community with wildlife and natural beauty on our doorstep. We cherish our rural way of life, which is quite different from our Stortford friends. We know our neighbours very well, who also feel strongly about our separate identity from the town as we have differing needs and concerns. As a member of OTTRA (Old Thorley and Twyford Residents Association) I believe it important to preserve our community and our identity. I absolutely oppose any attempt to incorporate us into the town - we are part of the Green Belt and should stay that way, distinct and separate from the rapidly expanding urbanisation of Stortford!	

No.	Respon- dent	Ward (if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BSTC area?	Do people who live/work in Area 'A' identify more with BS or Thorley?	Reasons	Any comments on changes to ward boundaries within BSTC?
W9	Local resident	Thorley Urban	No	Thorley		
W10	Local resident/ chair of youth group in Thorley	BS Central	No	Thorley	This move is merely to effect an urban expansion of Bishop's Stortford, which if Thorley remains a village cannot occur. The residents of Thorley and many of those who live in Bishops Stortford do not want this 'urban expansion' and increase in housing which the town cannot cope with.	
W11	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	I love living in the Thorley area and see no reason for the boundary changing. I see any changes as Hertford Council's underhand, sneaky way of trying to find a way round getting permission to build on the Green Belt land which is literally on my door step, a beautiful space that I see from my kitchen window and the main reason I chose to live here. The Town is struggling to cope with increased numbers of people as it is. Thorley is perfect as it is, I see no reason why any honest Bishop's Stortford resident would want to change it. We have all voted/protested many times in the past, and had planning on this land refused, why would you not respect our views? There needs to be more transparency from the council when dealing with Thorley resident's lives and local area. Please leave the boundaries as they are!	
W12	Local resident	Thorley Urban	No	Don't know	This is only being proposed to pass the Whittington Way development which will be a total disaster for our immediate area. Traffic is already dire here in the mornings, we do not need any more expansion.	
W13	Local resident	Thorley Urban	No	Thorley		

No.	Respon- dent	Ward (if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BSTC area?	Do people who live/work in Area 'A' identify more with BS or Thorley?	Reasons	Any comments on changes to ward boundaries within BSTC?
W14	Local resident	BS Silverleys	No	Thorley	I feel like this is a cover up for the council to build on Greenbelt land in Thorley which I completely disagree with. There should be no more building on farm land or Greenbelt land.	
W15	Local resident	Thorley Urban	No	Thorley	This is a land grab by EHDC and BSTC to stop objections by Thorley Parish and much of Bishops Stortford residents to unwarranted development BISH5 Green Belt, and I totally support the objection and case made by our civic federation	Will leave my view up to those who live there to decide not EHDC
W16	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	<p>Thorley has its own community and having visited Thorley church on numerous Christmas masses, you see the local people and how they relate to the parish of Thorley. Example being of the Christmas lambs from the nativity play making visits to the local parishes family members.</p> <p>If more houses were to be built, with an addition of a school then this would add additional traffic thoroughfare through London Rd, Whittington Rd and Thorley Hill Rd traffic lights are grid locked on numerous occasions currently. There needs to be access to the M11 from the south of Bishops Stortford. Without this, there is no ring road and all traffic traverses through the town. Issues or the closure of the M11, then traffic gets directed through the town along London Rd. The internal infrastructure to Bishops Stortford cannot currently cope (this is without the new homes currently being built in the northern area of Stortford). So, if we expand the southern area as well, with additional homes, then we will have enormous problems with movement within the town.</p>	
W17	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley		
W18	Local	BS South	No	Thorley	We don't want you to fill the lovely countryside that we enjoy	

No.	Respon- dent	Ward (if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BSTC area?	Do people who live/work in Area 'A' identify more with BS or Thorley?	Reasons	Any comments on changes to ward boundaries within BSTC?
	resident				every day. As the mother of a young family it is important for my family to see the beauty of England and not a sprawling housing estate. Keep the green fields green.	
W19	Local resident	Thorley Rural	No	Thorley	Any more construction will bring the town to a halt.	
W20	Local employee/ business person	BS South	No	Thorley	I would prefer if Thorley retained its village status and I'm unhappy with the amount of housing development in town/locally as insufficient infra structure exist. My family can't get Dr's appointments, the roads are clogged with traffic and in disrepair/insufficient schools/poor shopping options & parking/not much for the youngsters to do. Lived in B/S & Thorley area for around 34 years and town grown too large without the basics being put in.	
W21	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	Leave the boundaries as they are and do not develop land off Whittington Way.	
W22	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	Residents of Thorley Park associate highly with the village – our parish church is a high point and the peace and tranquillity of Sunday walks down the lane and around the farmlands is exactly why so many of us moved here in the first place. Village life brings a historic benefit for all of us and an extremely well utilised escape from the concrete and sprawl of mindless development. It is essential that the village essence of Thorley Village remains exactly that and that it isn't swallowed up in an urban sprawl that forever changes the aesthetic nature of the area we all enjoy. The whole of neighbouring Thorley Park benefits from our Parish church and the rambling pathways and bridleways that still maintain a "Country" feel to this age old Market Town. Leisure is also a staple need for hard working	

No.	Respon- dent	Ward (if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BSTC area?	Do people who live/work in Area 'A' identify more with BS or Thorley?	Reasons	Any comments on changes to ward boundaries within BSTC?
					people and Thorley Village provides the historic and greatly needed recreation for cyclists, horse riders and rambles alike. It is mindless destruction to take PARADISE AND PUT UP A PARKING LOT!	
W23	Local resident	Thorley Urban	No	Thorley	<p>In the quote below you have answered your own question, Thorley wishes and feels it is important as a village to remain under their own control and not Bishops Stortford's. Thorley must remain as a village - once you remove this status you can build and destroy the community in Thorley; once you have built on all the green spaces how can there be a community, people will just exist; unhappily.</p> <p>'The council believes that parishes should reflect distinctive and recognisable communities of interest with their own sense of identity and that electors should be able to identify with the parish in which they live. The wishes of local inhabitants and any submissions providing evidence of community identity or local linkages are therefore important considerations in this review'.</p> <p>The Boundaries must remain the same. Bishops Stortford is crumbling under the population pressure, we need to keep communities not expand them just because councils are under pressure to build more homes, where is everyone going to go?</p>	
W24	Local resident	Thorley Urban	No	Thorley	This consultation is connected too closely to removing opposition by Thorley residents and the Parish Council for development on the Green Belt.	No comment at this time on other Ward Boundaries changes

No.	Respon- dent	Ward (if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BSTC area?	Do people who live/work in Area 'A' identify more with BS or Thorley?	Reasons	Any comments on changes to ward boundaries within BSTC?
W25	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	We have lived in the parish of Thorley for the past 50 years, our children were christened in Thorley church, and the area is of outstanding beauty, just to walk-up though the open fields and ancient hedgerows and to take-in this wonderful view over the Stort valley. To take this away, from not only local people but those whom come to visit the parish, would be absolute madness to give this historical area over to the greedy developers at the whim of the jobsworth councillors of EHDC.	
W26	Local resident	BS South	No	Bishop's Stortford	The area is becoming one large town which is NOT the reason people moved here for.	
W27	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	Bishops Stortford is becoming an unrecognisable very large town. Too busy and congested to drive and very expensive to park.	
W28	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	<p>The area in South ward that is adjacent to the Thorley Parish has been known as Thorley Park since the development was built some 30 years ago. Most of the households have affiliations to one or other of the following: the church of St James the Great, Thorley and local youth organisations; 1st Thorley Scout group, Guides and Thorley U3A. They have an identity with the Parish of Thorley, even the community shopping precinct is known as Thorley. Should the changes go through the Parish of Thorley will disappear and become an anonymous part of Bishop's Stortford. The village community that existing will be lost. When we arrived here 35 years ago, it was the attraction of a village community that convinced us this was the place for our family to be safe and grow.</p> <p>The redrawing of the parish boundary is not necessary, as the</p>	

No.	Respon- dent	Ward (if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BSTC area?	Do people who live/work in Area 'A' identify more with BS or Thorley?	Reasons	Any comments on changes to ward boundaries within BSTC?
					<p>Thorley Parish functions efficiently and is well managed. It will impact on the public footpaths such as the Hertfordshire Way. It will effectively remove a tier of local government, which is safeguarding the Green Belt from further changes and the possible over development of 750 plus houses, which has already been turn down by a previous Secretary of State judgement. The proposed changes are a thinly veiled attempt by the B.S.T.C to take control of this sensitive area of development, hiding behind the fantasy of more effective and convenient local government.</p> <p>The way forward would be to allow the Thorley PC to gain the area entirely up to the south side of Whittington Way and Obrey Way, the entirety Thorley Lane east/ Church Lane, including the Thorley cricket field which on the circulated diagram 100018528 shows to be within the South Ward boundary, which is adding to the confusion of this matter and would have little or no impact on properties currently within South ward. Please allow the Thorley Parish Council to be able to determine the future of this area, not be side lined by some devious boundary changes, that should they be granted eliminate the need of a parish council.</p>	
W29	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	We do not want any more development in and around the bishops Stortford area, in particular in Thorley. The town is already overpopulated with the road network already gridlocked even before the current new developments are built.	

No.	Respondent	Ward (if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BSTC area?	Do people who live/work in Area 'A' identify more with BS or Thorley?	Reasons	Any comments on changes to ward boundaries within BSTC?
W30	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	Thorley is a distinct village. I believe that altering the boundaries is the backdoor green light for the council to build on the land south of Whittington Way. I enjoy the village feel of this area and the country walks and wildlife in this part of town. I do not feel the boundaries need 'tidying' as a way of developing the land.	Leave the ward boundaries as they are, it seems there are not advantages listed - provide evidence of why this is beneficial as I cannot see any as a local resident.
W31	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	The population profile of Thorley is vastly different to Bishop's Stortford. It is more community minded having a true village mentality. I can see no reason for the boundary change other than to give greater power to a Town Council that is already too powerful and defies the local desires. They always appear to know better. Giving them control over this area will further remove them from the people who live in this area, allowing them to further bully the people they are supposed to be working for. Sitting in the centre of the town, do they not realise that people choose to live at the edge of the town to enjoy the open space not far away. This additional power will just allow the Town Council to 'Rubber Stamp' more and more development that is currently outside their control. Big, in this case, is not beautiful, it is ugly!	
W32	Local resident	Thorley Urban	No	Thorley	I fear that planning decisions would be taken by BSTC railroading local residence of Thorley. Why change them if not to gain more planning powers	

No.	Respondent	Ward (if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BSTC area?	Do people who live/work in Area 'A' identify more with BS or Thorley?	Reasons	Any comments on changes to ward boundaries within BSTC?
W33	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	<p>The area marked 'A' is rural/arable. It is not at all like the town centre. I, and residents in the area who I have spoken to, feel that the Thorley Parish Council better understands and represents the area than the people/council of the built-up town.</p> <p>The growth of the Bishops Stortford South ward, with additional properties from the estates, exaggerates the differences between the relatively new built-up area and the old rural Area marked 'a' on the map.</p>	
W34	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	<p>I think that the current boundary should be retained as Thorley is an ancient parish which has been around for hundreds of years. The people of the parish have a sense of identity with their parish and will want to remain part of it rather than being incorporated into the much bigger neighbouring parish of Bishops Stortford. Thorley is a beautiful rural village with its own church and a distinct identity. The residents have a sense of community which could be lost if the boundary change goes ahead. I think that the ancient parish should be preserved.</p>	
W35	Local resident	Thorley Rural	No	Thorley	<p>I see no benefit to the local people; this is just a land grab by a bigger neighbour seeking to influence. Thorley Parish already reflects the identity of its community and is already cohesive. We are a small Parish with a great history and the community here relish that sense of tradition and heritage. Local government here is fine as it is now, we are represented by people who live here and understand the needs of the people. That would not be the case with a more remote body that has a large constituent demand. My view is that if it is not broken then do not attempt to fix it and I am suspicious of the</p>	None

No.	Respon- dent	Ward (if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BSTC area?	Do people who live/work in Area 'A' identify more with BS or Thorley?	Reasons	Any comments on changes to ward boundaries within BSTC?
					motivation for this proposal.	
W36	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley		
W37	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	I believe the ward change is a deceptive device to allow the BISH5 (B/S South) development to proceed unhindered. Thorley is a class 3 village and this land DOES fall within the village boundary and as such is a "no development " area. The boundary change is a landgrab action and should be highlighted as such.	
W38	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	I believe the ward change is a deceptive device to allow the BISH5 (B/S South) development to proceed unhindered. Thorley is a class 3 village and this land DOES fall within the village boundary and as such is a "no development " area. The boundary change is a landgrab action and should be highlighted as such.	
W39	Local resident	Thorley Urban	No	Thorley	I do not want the boundaries to be changed. I see no reason for doing this.	
W40	Local resident	BS All Saints	No	Thorley	Thorley was and still is a village and as such should keep its own identity and be able to protect this area from over development in the future.	
W41	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	Worried about building on green belt land. Upset about new houses planned for Whittington way area.	
W42	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	This is mainly to enable more unwanted development.	
W43	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	Another ploy to destroy green belt	
W44	Local resident	BS Silverleys	Yes	Thorley	If the area inside the bypass is developed it should be part of Bishops Stortford, but not otherwise. All of St Michael's Mead	BS Central needs complete

No.	Respon- dent	Ward (if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BSTC area?	Do people who live/work in Area 'A' identify more with BS or Thorley?	Reasons	Any comments on changes to ward boundaries within BSTC?
					should clearly be in BS. To maintain a viable Thorley Parish the properties on Thorley Street could remain in Thorley parish. A compromise maybe?	redrawing as it doesn't include much of the town centre. There might need to be wide ranging changes once BS North is developed, as this could be a good opportunity to start afresh.
W45	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	Clearly meant to enable green belt to be destroyed even more easily	
W46	Local resident	BS Central	No	Thorley		
W47	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	Chance of development next to Whittington way being built. This would be very bad for the area and local residents	
W48	Local resident	Thorley Urban	No	Thorley	I think that it is really important to local residents that Thorley remains as a village and a parish.	
W49	Local resident	Thorley Urban	No	Thorley	EHDC way of obtaining planning for Bishops Stortford South development and no other interest.	
W50	Local resident	Thorley Urban	No	Thorley	Because this gives the Town Council the unhindered control of BISH5 development being sought. This is a way of pushing aside any resistance by the Thorley Council to the development. The voices of the Thorley residents will be lost. Pig Lane is a congested rat run of a road that Stortford South will only multiply 4 times as proved by the evidence in the planning	

No.	Respon- dent	Ward (if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BSTC area?	Do people who live/work in Area 'A' identify more with BS or Thorley?	Reasons	Any comments on changes to ward boundaries within BSTC?
					consultations. As above this is just a way of silencing any small councils to push through developments in those areas without challenge.	
W51	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	I do not wish to lose a local Parish Council. Local democracy is important and the Parish Council are able to take into account the view if residents in the Thorley area rather than those of Bishops Stortford Town Council.	
W52	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	As BS Town Council are already doing a wonderful job of ruining the rest of the town it is blatantly obvious to anyone that the only reason for this boundary change is so they can destroy the Thorley Parish as well, with new developments. The roads and infrastructure on that side of Thorley/Stortford are already pushed to the limit during the busy times of the day and further burdening them with extra demand just so the council can sell off the land and reap extra council tax is no reason for this proposed change. The whole proposal is obviously driven by the lure of developers' promises and funds. But once they have squeezed every last ounce out of this town and ruined it they will move on to the next town. They, and the council employees/planners, may not have to care about the residents of Thorley and Bishop's Stortford but the elected members of the council are meant to. This is why WE elect them in the first place.	
W53	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	Thorley village and the parish have been in existence since domesday - to change the boundaries would result in the historic village, which has a strong community, losing its identity. The council are saying that the changes are to promote better community cohesion, how can the obliteration	

No.	Respon- dent	Ward (if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BSTC area?	Do people who live/work in Area 'A' identify more with BS or Thorley?	Reasons	Any comments on changes to ward boundaries within BSTC?
					of a villages' identity do this? I find the timing of this proposed change somewhat questionable when taking into account that Thorley as a Grade 3 village, which cannot be developed, is potentially an obstruction to the proposed development of Bishop's Stortford South. If this boundary change was to be endorsed then the proposed development would almost certainly get the go ahead. The infrastructure of Bishop's Stortford is already strained, and the roads are permanently gridlocked that is without taking into account the development that is already underway. It would mean that Thorley Parish would be left with only 22 houses. That is not a village!	
W54	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	It's an encroachment into Thorley parish, divides the parish community, demolishes parish governance and destroys village name and identity. Council justification is trivial and stems from unprincipled motivation and self interest	
W55	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	It's an encroachment into Thorley parish, divides the parish community, demolishes parish governance and destroys village name and identity. Council justification is trivial and stems from unprincipled motivation and self interest	
W56	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	I feel that Thorley should remain a "village" with a Parish Council that has represented it faithfully for many years. These boundary changes will swallow-up this ancient parish and remove the democratic right of the residents to have a voice on their local parish matters as well as matters that concern the wider community.	
W57	Local resident	BS South	No	Don't know	Timing looks very suspicious in relation to the proposed Whittington Way development and these changes just smooth that process. With these proposed boundary changes you	See my previous comments

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					would in effect be removing Thorley Parish Council which may still be able to provide a useful community service to Thorley residents.	
W58	Local resident	BS Silverleys	No	Thorley	I live on Bishops Park. Unless there is a significant increase in local amenities such as doctors, schools, shops on the outskirts of the town the existing infrastructure cannot cope with the impact of this development. It's already carnage along the Hadham Road with building works and that's before the impact of the additional new residents and their cars on the existing roads. It's going to be completely gridlocked.	
W59	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	Thorley is classed as a 3 Greenbelt Village and I believe that most people that live in this area want it to stay as a village, we do not class our homes as being in Bishops Stortford and if we lose our village it will be a travesty for all in the area as we will not have a say in what is built in the area. Greenbelt land should not be built on.	
W60	Local resident	BS All Saints	No	Thorley	Thorley is a Class 3 Greenbelt village. No development is allowed in Class 3 villages. BISH 5 is part of this area and BSTC/EHDC want to allow Countryside Properties to build 750 houses and associated buildings. Scant/Limited dialogue with local residents and local councillors not available.	Would not comment until full details explained and specific criteria made available for these changes.
W61	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley		
W62	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	The Parish Council do excellent work and fund raising for our local community and should be allowed to continue this work	

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					unhindered.	
W63	Member of Thorley Cricket Club		No	Thorley	The Village of Thorley is small enclave or rural tranquility and should not be swallowed up by surrounding metropolis	
W64	Thorley Cricket Club		No	Thorley	Small Villages should not be absorbed into adjacent conurbations	
W65	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	Cricket club allegiances over 125 years.	
W66	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	I'm sure there is a mix of views, but on balance I think Thorley. I suspect this is just a first step towards consuming all of Thorley Ward. Given the current high rate of house building in Bishops Stortford I think the town needs a slow down while it adapts rather than eating up more of the surrounding area.	
W67	Member of Thorley Cricket Club		No	Thorley		
W68	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley		
W69	Former resident & member of Thorley Cricket Club		No	Thorley	By taking away this area from Thorley you are impacting the recreation of the neighbourhood. We live in a time where recreation is vital to ensure fitness and vitality rather than pushing people into not going outdoors and interacting with others. We all need space away from home and to enjoy sport is vital in all forms of life.	
W70	Local	BS Central	No	Thorley	We are local residents who use local facilities such as Thorley	

No.	Respondent	Ward (if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BSTC area?	Do people who live/work in Area 'A' identify more with BS or Thorley?	Reasons	Any comments on changes to ward boundaries within BSTC?
	resident				cricket club Whose facilities may be compromised if this goes ahead	
W71	Use cricket club and don't trust you		No	Don't know		
W72	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	This will destroy Thorley, which has a rich history & is beautiful. We have to protect it.so that isn't over developed.	
W73	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	Potential loss of more "green areas" and "recreation areas" to housing developments.	
W74	Local resident	BS South	No	Don't know		
W75	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley		
W76	Local resident	BS South	No	Don't know	Don't want that area to be developed. It is green belt land.	
W77	Local resident	BS South	No	Don't know	Green belt land should not be built on	
W78	Local resident, BS town councillor	BS Silverleys	Yes	Bishop's Stortford	This boundary would give the Town Council a more realistic boundary of the Town's by-pass. It also resolves the anomaly that BSTC South Ward does not cover this area, but EHDC South Ward does.	These are sensible modifications to deal with anomalies where blocks of flats have been built over ward boundaries, boundaries run

No.	Respondent	Ward (if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BSTC area?	Do people who live/work in Area 'A' identify more with BS or Thorley?	Reasons	Any comments on changes to ward boundaries within BSTC?
						up half a street etc. A tidying up exercise to make councillors more accountable to the residents they serve by making it clearer to residents who their representatives are. The Chief Executive of BSTC's report outlined a number of anomalies that could usefully be tidied up.
W79	Cricket club member		No	Thorley		
W80	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley		
W81	Local residents	BS South	No	Thorley	Our area is known as Thorley Park, and has been for very many years, and is signposted as such. If the boundary changes are made, Thorley Village will no longer be classed as a grade 3 village and housebuilding will be allowed. As well as losing our	

No.	Respon- dent	Ward (if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BSTC area?	Do people who live/work in Area 'A' identify more with BS or Thorley?	Reasons	Any comments on changes to ward boundaries within BSTC?
					green belt status this will mean lots of houses being built on an area previously designated as not being allowed. This is appalling!! BSTC are just out to enlarge an already over populated area. Isn't Stortford North and Hazel end enough?	
W82	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley		
W83	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	I regularly walk my dog over this area in open fields where he can run free. More houses going here will make no local free spaces and the town is congested as is. London Road is gridlocked I don't want my children breathing anymore pollution than they are already are exposed to (which is currently too much).	
W84	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley		
W85	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley		
W86	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	Leave things as they are.	
W87	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	I have lived in Thorley for the last fifty years. It will make the area too urban.	
W88	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley		
W89	Local resident	Thorley Rural	No	Thorley	I want to see Thorley retain its village status and identity. It is important local people are represented by local people in all decisions to do with local planning and changes to the area, and the Thorley Parish Council do this extremely well and should remain in place.	
W90	Local	BS All Saints	No	Don't know	I used "don't know" above because there is not a blanket	Most seem quite

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	resident				answer. Part of the population definitely “belongs” to Thorley Village, though the more recent residents may not feel the same. My concern is that ALL residents would wish to remain in Thorley because of the huge development proposed in the Green Belt. Thorley parish could not accept such development whereas Bishop’s Stortford Town Council could, IF the Green Belt is released for building. (Also, of course, Thorley residents would have a far higher precept in the Town.) I used to live in the area being considered and have lived in the town for over 40 years so feel able to comment on what appears to be an underhand proposal.	logical and I do not feel affected by them.
W91	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley		
W92	Local resident	Thorley Urban	No	Thorley	There is no reason apparent for the requested proposals other than to control any new development in BS South/Thorley area. The reasons are that the proposals do not fulfil any of the requirements of EHDCs review terms of reference to advantage to residents, improvement of services, reflective of local identity, interests of the community nor any improvement of provisions for effective or convenient local government. The proposals for electoral ward changes in most locations involve such small numbers as to be negligible except for BS South ward where it is apparent that the real reason for the change as stated [in EHDC's CGR of BSTC's terms of reference 1.6] is to control all new developments in Thorley Parish. And that para. 8.4 in terms of ref. states that the boundary change will not guarantee the electoral ward changes which were given as reasons for the boundary change.	

No.	Respon- dent	Ward (if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BSTC area?	Do people who live/work in Area 'A' identify more with BS or Thorley?	Reasons	Any comments on changes to ward boundaries within BSTC?
					As a requested review, the proposals are illogical and do not fulfil or give evidence to support any of the requirements demanded in EHDCs terms for a review. A far more logical boundary change would be for Thorley Parish to absorb the fringe areas of B.Stortford adjacent to Whittington Way, Obrey Way and Thorley Street and make those roads the TP Council's boundary, this would involve a very few residences, minimal change to electoral wards and the proposal would fulfil all county requirements for CGR.	
W93	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	My lovely market town is being slowly destroyed, I have lived here for many years and although change is inevitable and sometimes for the better it is important to keep the character of our town. We already have thousands of dwellings coming to our town so please leave the fringes untouched. Keep Stortford separate from Sawbridgewoth and keep Thorley separate from Stratford.	
W94	Local resident	BS Central	Yes	Bishop's Stortford	Sensible idea	Thorley should be a separate ward as should St Michael's Mead
W95	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley		
W96	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	The existing Thorley area is a distinct separate community. We would like to remain as such. The electoral areas as they currently stand correctly reflect the community structure. There is no viable reason (other than to open up land for development) for the proposed boundary changes.	

No.	Respon- dent	Ward (if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BSTC area?	Do people who live/work in Area 'A' identify more with BS or Thorley?	Reasons	Any comments on changes to ward boundaries within BSTC?
					The infrastructure in the area is already over capacity and the restrictions that the current boundary structure provide are fair and reflect that.	
W97	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	In a nutshell. Greenbelt should remain as such - it was created for the very purpose of preventing excessive development. There is already a lot of new resi development happening / happened recently. The town needs a hospital /more medical facilities including GP surgeries + staff to run them - the council has a duty of care to the existing town. Bishops Stortford is supposed to be a market town not a mini Canary Wharf. All the redevelopment is destroying the character. Where does it end ? When the town starts joining up and absorbing smaller villages etc. in its environs? What about general maintenance of the existing town let alone increasing the massing on the volume proposed - leaves/organic detritus isn't cleared up - left to rot on pavements and block drains - some of which, even on the main thoroughfare are totally silted over causing a build up of surface water whenever it rains - the town is often gridlocked now without all the additional traffic from the proposed new housing. The town can't support all the extra people. If the infrastructure is to be improved that needs to happen first.	
W98	Local resident	BS South	No	Thorley	I have lived in this area for 30+ years and do not see any legitimate reason why the boundary needs to change. It is a semi rural space providing much needed greenery and a peaceful area for all residents to use. Historically it has been the site of archaeological interest, the 12th century church and the historic woodland should not be threatened in any way by being subjected to a change which could prove detrimental.	

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W99	Local resident	Thorley Urban	No	Thorley	<p>1. I note that in the Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review, the only “Reason for the Review” advanced by the Town Council is that for “areas of further potential development consented or envisaged within the Draft District Plan ... the Town Council considers the development area will be seen as part of Bishops Stortford”. This is clearly a reference to the 53ha’s of land at Bishops Stortford South recommended for removal from the Green Belt and development for at least 750 homes and other facilities under Policy BISH5. This policy is still under consideration by the Inspector and has been the subject of significant objections, particularly by Thorley Parish residents, both at the Examination in Public and during the current Modifications consultation process. Even if allocated in the Draft District Plan, the development will still require positive outline and detailed planning decisions and is only programmed in the Plan for 200 homes by 2023 and the remainder by 2033. It is therefore presumptive and premature to amend the Thorley Parish boundary solely for this reason.</p> <p>2. If DFR Policy BISH5 is not successful will have been made for no appropriate reason. If successful – and subsequent planning applications approved – no evidence has been advanced that the “area will be seen as part of Bishops Stortford” As objections to BISH5 have made clear, the development is seen as being within and part of Thorley village (a Group 3 Village in the Draft District Plan) and impacting most severely on Thorley residents. I note that the effect of bringing the Bishops Stortford South site within the Bishops Stortford</p>	None

No.	Respondent	Ward (if local resident)	Agree that Area 'A' should become part of BSTC area?	Do people who live/work in Area 'A' identify more with BS or Thorley?	Reasons	Any comments on changes to ward boundaries within BSTC?
					<p>Town Council boundary will allow EHDC to remove Thorley Parish and other Thorley stakeholders from the masterplanning process required by the Draft District Plan.</p> <p>3. The apparent focus of the boundary change on bringing Bishops Stortford South into the Town Council area may also be used to call into question Thorley's Group 3 Village status in the Draft District Plan (where no major development is allowed). As the promoters of BISH5. EHDC has a significant interest in removing masterplanning and Group 3 Village status obstacles to development. Since, as the Terms of Reference state, EHDC will make the final recommendation and implement the boundary change there is a clear conflict of interest in its role as "Principal Council" for this Community Governance Review.</p>	
W100	Local resident & Thorley Parish Councillor	BS Central	No	Thorley	See letter M22 in table 2	
W101	Thorley Parish Council		No	Thorley	See document M23 in table 2	
W102	Local resident	Thorley Urban	No	Thorley	See document M23 in table 2	

TABLE 2 - COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF BISHOP'S STORTFORD 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 residents	Thorley Urban	<p>If Thorley Parish is to retain its heritage and identity then, at the very least, the area south of Whittington Way (Thorley Street) should retain its current status. Clearly the politics of the controversial Bishop's Stortford South development are paramount in the authorities thinking. This will be categorically denied, of course, but one look at the boundaries map (Area A) says everything. Another 750+ proposed new households etc. in the area. A nice little earner.</p> <p>Hopefully this will not occur but the signs are ominous and the historic Thorley Parish will eventually be confined to the history books. This should not be allowed to happen - Thorley, the ancient Thursdays Green, is part of our heritage and should be preserved in every way possible.</p>
M2	Letter	Local resident	Thorley Urban	<p>To whom it may concern. I do <u>not</u> agree with any boundary changes for the south of B. S. as suggested by the Council. Yours sincerely. I was unable to either complete a questionnaire or send e-mail.</p>
M3	E-mail	Not stated		<p>Quick note to say that I have read the leaflet, and gone online to discover more. The online presentation is very convoluted and esoteric and difficult to navigate. A link to the PRECISE matter under discussion here would be helpful. As far as the leaflet goes - it is not clear what the NET IMPACT on the residents of either parish will be. Presumably for residents of BS, council tax will go down, and for those of Thorley, it will rise. This is not an easy leaflet to either understand or comment on.</p> <p>The missing information is a table showing the likely consequences of the change. It is unhelpful to have a leaflet highlighting the importance of our views (what is the question you are asking?) - maybe I am missing something obvious, but what exactly would the impact be? I am a resident of Bishops Stortford - am I right in assuming that council tax will go down, and that Thorley will be more substantially represented relative to the electorate. And WHY is this important? What changes are afoot that would impact the wards and that could be affected by this change?</p>
M4	E-mail	Local resident	Thorley Urban	<p>Dear Sirs, It is vital that the Thorley parish boundary remains where it is.</p> <p>With plans by East Herts District Council for a large development in the South Ward adjacent to Whittington Way the views of the local residents most affected are more than ever best represented by Thorley parish at its present size.</p> <p>If boundaries are moved the number of electors remaining in Thorley parish will be few with the possibility that the parish will become too small to be effective.</p>

No.	Channel	Respondent	If local resident, ward	Content of response
				The view of many residents in the parish is that Bishops Stortford Town Council has little interest in the impact that housing development is and will have on the town and do not represent the views of the local community.
M5	Letter	Bishop's Stortford Civic Federation		See copy of letter in Essential Reference Paper B(ii)
M6	Letter	Local resident	Thorley Urban	Dear Sir, I <u>oppose</u> any form of boundary change to Thorley Parish to enlarge Bishop's Stortford South Ward. I have lived in Thorley Parish for over 30 years & this proposed change would leave Thorley Parish as some local fields. I consider that move is to allow the removal of green belt ground south of Whittington Way. To really have 'our' say surely a vote should be held to indicate all the views of Thorley. Is there a possibility of a separation from East Herts along the same lines?
M7	E-mail	Hertford & Stortford Conservative Association		Further to your recent email concerning the above, I am pleased to advise you that Hertford and Stortford Conservative Association endorse your proposal for this review.
M8	E-mail	Local residents	Not stated	Dear 'Keep Thorley Village' campaigners, Sadly we were unable to attend the meeting on Friday evening but do still feel very strongly about your campaign to save our community. We live just off of Whittington Way having moved here from London very recently. We were inspired to purchase here due to the beauty & feel of the area. The outlook from our property is so beautiful & a long way from the built up area that we moved away from. We lived in an area over many years & through three generations in the same house before that was very beautiful & cared for. Over time we have watched overdevelopment take place & completely ruin the area to the point where there is no community spirit & it being a horrible place to live. Kids hung around the roads & burglaries, vandalism, antisocial behaviour & drugs became a huge problem. People lost interest in their surroundings & flytipping was common. There was a village community there once & a pride in their homes, gardens, surroundings & community spirit. This no longer exists. We have found the community & surroundings here to be so welcoming &, quite honestly, idyllic. The greenbelt land within Thorley is so lovely and connects to the Southern Country Park that is used &

No.	Channel	Respondent	If local resident, ward	Content of response
				<p>enjoyed by so many in the local community & beyond. There are miles of footpaths & country walks all over, used by walkers, dog walkers, etc that bring you so close to nature & an escape from our busy lives. The health benefits speak for themselves both physically, mentally & emotionally. The trees and greenery filter the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere which again are a major consideration to public health. Children love the parks and open areas to play, explore and investigate. Children need more encouragement to play a lot more outdoors and less time on gadgets, again there are many health and development benefits from this also.</p> <p>The wildlife and plants, hedgerow, trees, flowers and alike are also very important to save. Natural habitats are abundant in these areas for many species of the above.</p> <p>Bees are in decline in the UK as well as many insects, birds & mammals. Their habitats are being destroyed at a great rate of knots making it harder for them to survive & flourish. This also applies to the many plant species. Man & nature need to be encouraged to live alongside each other & we need to keep our beautiful villages & communities alive all the more for these reasons.</p> <p>There has been a lot of development in the local area already and expansion has been huge so far. To further build, especially in Thorley Village, would totally ruin the beauty of this idyllic village community in a devastating way. It would definitely not be progress that would benefit this area positively in any way whatsoever.</p> <p>Too many areas are becoming overdeveloped in this way creating divide amongst people and not promoting a happy, beautiful community spirit that people value and strive to keep that way. It crushes the spirit in community creating another concrete jungle and a huge burden on the infrastructure around us. The public services such as GPS, schools, etc would mean further development, again even further impacting on this beautiful area. The village would change so much and lose its charm and identity. The whole reason & point of us moving here to escape an area that once was so beautiful & has declined so dramatically would have been wasted. It would be criminal to expand Stortford & WE MUST KEEP THORLEY VILLAGE.</p>
M9	E-mail	Local resident	Thorley Urban	<p>Dear Sirs,</p> <p>As a long-time resident of Bishops Stortford there has been lots of change – I am not one to instantly moan, the town has changed and is now a thriving community, but as you know this brings lots of challenges too. Whilst I am sure schooling and healthcare are being considered as part of the expansion, I am very worried about traffic. At present the queues on the bypass and into town and around</p>

No.	Channel	Respondent	If local resident, ward	Content of response
				Sawbridgeworth are already unmanageable. Could I please have any information or plans, in relation to the ongoing consultation process, as to how you are planning to alleviate the increased traffic pressure on a system which is already at breaking point? Many thanks.
M10	Letter	Local resident	BS South	<p>Dear Sir, Re: Proposed development south of Whittington Way.</p> <p>Obviously this is a protest against the EHDC plan. There are a number of reasons for this to be a non-starter.</p> <p>Clearly we, the U.K., need more houses & the Government have decided on the number. However, there are already far too many currently being built in & around Bishop's Stortford without proper thought being given to how the Town will cope & how the current infrastructure & services will manage. BS as a market town & Thorley as a village & a parish are about to be seriously damaged beyond repair. I urge you to act responsibly, sensitively & thoughtfully. Yours faithfully.</p>
M11	E-mail	Local residents	Not stated	<p>We wish to register our objection to the proposed development on the Southern edge of the town. Having lived in Twyford Park for nearly 50 years we have seen successive developments gradually taking over all the former farm land on the southern side of town, and though we appreciate the need for further housing, this new proposal is a step too far for the existing population of Bishops Stortford. We already find it nearly impossible to drive out of Bishops Ave. at certain times - the traffic is queuing to get out of Whittington Way due to the tail back on the A1184 going into Bishops Stortford. The doctors are full to breaking point, the schools are already full, the A. and E. dept. at Harlow hospital is totally inadequate and the existing car parks are often full by 11a.m.</p> <p>A great deal more thought needs to be put into any further expansion of the town and the need for the infrastructure to sustain it. The needs of the present population should take priority.</p> <p>We also feel that Thorley should retain its status as a village and separate Parish.</p>
M12	Letter	Local resident, OTTRA	BS South	<p>Dear Sir/Madam, I am writing to you to say <u>NO</u> to the Town Council's request to EHDC for its boundary to be moved to run alongside the bypass.</p> <p><u>Why?</u> Because it is encroachment into Thorley Parish and transfers parish jurisdiction to town council.</p> <p><u>Because</u> it divides parish community, demolishes parish governance, and destroys village name and identity.</p> <p><u>Because</u> it gives to the town council the unhindered control of BISH5 development being sought.</p> <p><u>Because</u> the council's justification for it is trivial and stems from unprincipled motivation and self-interest.</p>

No.	Channel	Respondent	If local resident, ward	Content of response
				<p><u>Because</u> it excludes rural parishioners. How has this situation come about?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thorley is a Class 3 Greenbelt Village - No development is allowed in Class 3 villages - EHDC ignored this policy and went ahead to propose in the draft district plan removal of Greenbelt from Thorley and selection of BISH5 site for development - Policy breach raised with examiner at plan hearing - Consequence – problem for examiner and set back for town council?? Hence try to get rid of Parish Council?? <p>Concluding this letter with what has become our mantra it seems. STOP EAST HERTS COUNCIL BUILDING ON THE GREEN BELT! PREVENT PRIME FARM LAND BEING USED FOR HOUSING! STOP URBAN SPRAWL AROUND BISHOP’S STORTFORD! Thank you for reading this letter. Yours sincerely.</p>
M13	E-mail	Hertfordshire County Council		<p>Hertfordshire County Council considers that in the main the proposals outlined in the Community Governance Review for Bishop’s Stortford address anomalies some of which have arisen from residential development. The Council wishes East Herts District Council to note that the proposals for minor changes to parish wards within Bishop’s Stortford town would, if agreed, lead to some loss of coterminosity with district and county division boundaries and would require referral to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and Wales.</p>
M14	E-mail	Bishop’s Stortford Town Council		<p>See copy of e-mail in Essential Reference Paper B(ii).</p>
M15	E-mail	Hockerill Residents’ Association		<p>As Chair of Hockerill Residents Association I wish to support the realignment of the Bishop's Stortford boundary so that it encompasses Area A on your map i.e. makes the Town and District South wards both align with the by-pass. It is evident to anyone that the residents within that area all enjoy the facilities of Bishop's Stortford and as such those provided by BS Town Council and Rhodes. Also, St Michael's Mead is one community with its own Hall and this adjustment would promote community cohesion as most of residents would doubtless regard themselves as living in Bishop's Stortford and reflect their actual identity and interests. Making the District and Town boundaries the same would also promote effective and convenient local government and ensure that BSTC as a consultative body would be able to</p>

No.	Channel	Respondent	If local resident, ward	Content of response
				<p>comment on Planning issues that impact on its schools and other infrastructure and be better for community representation and engagement such as at the Annual Town meeting and the various BSTC Committees where residents have the right to attend and speak. Given the resources of BSTC and professional staff they would be better placed to serve the existing and any new residents.</p> <p>Similar views as above would support the tidying up of internal BS Ward boundaries as proposed as polling stations could be clearer for people living in the same roads where currently there is division of either part or one side of a street or indeed a few houses and people have assumed that they are in one community where in fact current ward boundaries put them in another. HRA support the adjustments proposed. It is currently odd that several Wards have anomalies from back garden development in other Wards or new developments such as at Tanners Wharf were once there were no residents as it was an industrial site. Now it has something like 24 councillors for a few blocks with one residents association.</p>
M16	E-mail	Town Mayor, Bishop's Stortford Town Council		<p>As Town Mayor of Bishop's Stortford I write to support the review of Town and ward boundaries as proposed. Examining the Minutes of the Thorley Parish Council in comparison to those of BS Town Council readily illustrates that BSTC provides effective and convenient local government with greater frequency and better opportunities for residents to be represented and speak and engage with their councillors at a number of committees, task & finish or working groups and full Council. The South Ward boundary change would further clarify representation by aligning District and Ward boundaries and move the BS parish to a definitive boundary of the by-pass. It is quite clear that residents of St Michael's mead whilst enjoying the facilities that BSTC provide to its residents also are one community with their own community hall, – supported by BSTC administration and should not be artificially divided because their house stands in a different part of what was a fields form that of their neighbours. The Annual Town meeting of BSTC has also been attended by residents from Pig Lane and other parts of what is current TPC on the assumption by them that they are already BS residents. Transferring these residents from Thorley Parish to BS would not impact on the viability of Thorley as a separate rural community as it would simply return TPC to electoral numbers that it enjoyed prior to the development of St Michael's Mead.</p> <p>Conversely one might say the BS currently has too many councillors in multi-cllr Wards for the amount of work that is required, (compare that a County Cllrs alone covers two Wards as a single Division but taking</p>

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				<p>just as one example, BS Ward of All Saints, that has three District and four Town cllrs). There may be a case for fewer BS cllrs as well as for increase in the size of the parish to encompass the proposed area to promote more effective and convenient local government.</p> <p>The changes to the five internal BS Wards also make sense in terms of definable communities of interest. To cite a few examples: a few houses in Lea Grove, only accessible from All Saints Ward, are in Meads simply because they were developed at the end of v long back gardens of homes of Stansted Rd, i.e. Meads Ward. By contrast a few houses in Collins Cross are severed from their neighbours in Meads and placed in All Saints. Stylemans Lane is in South ward but is on the far edge of All Saints – only linked to South Ward by the Stort Navigation; road access is via All Saints. Then there are two back land development houses from Stansted Rd placed in Meads but which are on Parsonage Lane and regarded as part of All Saints by the community. The paper to K Williams dated 20 December from James Parker makes clear and appropriate cases for similar anomalies to be rectified in other Wards. To take just a few examples, a few homes right at the top of Westfield Rd, (itself in Meads), fall into Silverleys; one side of Bells Hill is Meads, the other, Silverleys, which confuses both residents and cllrs; the rear of Wentworth Drive is in Central but the bulk of homes are in Silverleys and so on.</p> <p>I hope all of the proposed changes put forward by BSTC can be accepted as there is a clear logic consistent with good local government and the identities and interests of the communities affected.</p>
M17	E-mail	Local resident	BS South	See copy of document in Essential Reference Paper B(ii).
M18	E-mail	The Hundred Parishes Society		<p>Dear Sir,</p> <p>I write on behalf of the trustees of The Hundred Parishes Society.</p> <p>The Society is a registered charity whose aims are to increase awareness, enjoyment and conservation of an area of northwest Essex, northeast Hertfordshire and south Cambridgeshire that is characterised by its rich and diverse heritage. The Society's membership includes twenty parish councils, one of which is Thorley.</p> <p>I should make it clear that the Hundred Parishes and its boundary have no statutory basis. When we defined the boundary several years ago we chose to exclude Bishop's Stortford and Stansted Airport as their characteristics differed from the generally rural nature of the Hundred Parishes. The Hundred</p>

No.	Channel	Respondent	If local resident, ward	Content of response
				<p>Parishes perimeter was defined entirely along parish boundaries with the exception of the exclusion of Stansted Airport. Thorley parish falls within the Hundred Parishes.</p> <p>The Society objects to the proposed realignment of the boundary between Bishop's Stortford and Thorley on the following grounds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 The area under discussion lies within the Green Belt. Annexation from an essentially rural parish to an urban town appears to increase the threat that this Green Belt land will lose its protection and cease to serve the purpose for which it was established, primarily to prevent urban sprawl. 2 Thorley parish is part of an extensive area that for some years has been informally known as The Hundred Parishes. This is an area that combines natural beauty with an exceptional depth of rural and architectural heritage. The scope of this special area should not be eroded. <p>Yours faithfully, Ken McDonald Secretary to The Hundred Parishes Society</p>
M19	E-mail	Local resident	BS All Saints	<p>Dear sir,</p> <p>I write to object to the above. I believe that such measures are premature and unreasonably anticipate that green belt land will be freed for housing when twice before the same land has been the subject of applications for related/similiar development and both times struck down by inspectors and government. I joined focus groups during the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan for this area of Bishop's Stortford and I believe EHC is ignoring the spirit and word of it. If this proposal had been discussed in the groups at the same time as the possibility of BS South happening then this would have received exactly the same short shrift. I believe EHC is striking a deal with the BS Town Council in this proposal in order to pursue the aim of stuffing more housing in Storford which has been their policy in recent times. This follows as a result of the same councillors appearing at various levels of local administration, parish/town, district and county, which works against ward representation and is not good for local scrutiny and democracy.</p> <p>Bishop's Stortford Civic Federation represents a large number of townspeople and has done so for many years, gathering opinions and focusing efforts to achieve reasonable and sustainable town growth by consensus not by edict. The councillors would do well to heed the views published by the federation. The federation president, John Rhodes, has written a letter dated 8th March in connection with this consultation and I wish it to be recorded that I concur with every word.</p>

No.	Channel	Respondent	If local resident, ward	Content of response
				Yours faithfully.
M20	E-mail	Old Thorley & Twyford Residents' Association		See copy of letter in Essential Reference Paper B(ii).
M21	Letter	Local resident	BS South	<p>Dear Sir/Madam,</p> <p>I would like to voice my objection to the development of Green Belt land adjacent to Whittington Way, Bishop's Stortford. This is a designated Green Belt land how can the boundaries then be moved to allow the building of houses schools & factories? Whittington Way is already a very busy road what will the traffic be like when the people from 750 homes exit the estate? If I wanted to build a house on that land permission would not be granted as the objection would be 'it is Green Belt land'.</p> <p>Also this is a busy flight path to Stansted Airport, not the best place to build new houses I would have thought.</p> <p>Sadly the 'village' of Thorley will be lost.</p> <p>I know this development will probably go ahead as the people with the 'big money' – Countryside – nearly always win against the 'little' people who are only trying to make our lives better by keeping out lovely green fields. Yours faithfully.</p>
M22	Letter	Local resident & Thorley Parish Councillor	BS Central	<p>Dear Mr Williams,</p> <p>I lived in Thorley from 1984 to 2013 and I am currently a Thorley Parish Councillor.</p> <p>I am writing to say that I object to the proposed Thorley boundary change as I do not believe that Bishop's Stortford Town Council have demonstrated that the change is necessary. The boundary review has been described by Bishop's Stortford Town Councillors as "ironing out the wrinkles" and "tidying things up". Their proposal focuses on boundaries but overlooks the existing community. It is not clear what Bishop's Stortford could add.</p> <p>The proposal would result in the abolition of Thorley Parish Council and reduce the number of houses to 23, making it non viable community. Currently it has its own Parish Council, Church, Scout Group, and U3A branch. And a strong sense of identity. The community has come together to stay in existence. There was a public meeting attended by about 40 people and a letter writing campaign and petition were organized. People within the Parish and in the wider area have expressed their support for Thorley to stay in being as a Parish and Village.</p>

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				<p>I note that the projected elector figures for Thorley Parish in five years time will be 1079. The increase takes account of proposed new building in the Parish. In my view the new community (if it happens) would be better served by its own Parish Council than by being part of the town. The new houses would be located in the Parish with a clear boundary of Whittington Way on one side and Thorley Street on the other. I agree with the proposal that the fringe areas of Bishop's Stortford adjacent to Obrey Way, Whittington Way and Thorley Street should be incorporated into Thorley Parish.</p> <p>It would be better for everyone, in my view if the established community stayed in being and any newcomers joined that community. The alternative offered by the Town Council is to be an add on to the existing town with the uninspiring name of Bishop's Stortford South. What Thorley Parish has to offer is known but the Town Council have not specified what they can offer the people of Thorley.</p> <p>Yours sincerely.</p>
M23	Appendix to consult'n form	Thorley Parish Council		See copy of document in Essential Reference Paper B(ii)
M24	Hard copy, hand delivered	Petition		<p>125 sheets headed "Save Your Community – Survey on behalf of Thorley Parish Council. Please print name and address below and sign if you want no change to the current boundary between Thorley village and Bishop's Stortford:-"</p> <p>Signed by a total of 960 persons. The large majority of addresses given are in Bishop's Stortford (all wards represented) or Thorley. A small minority of addresses are from elsewhere in East Herts or outside the district.</p>
M25	Hard copy, hand delivered	Proforma letters of objection		<p>394 individually signed proforma letters stating "I object to the proposed Thorley boundary change – the proposed changes do not demonstrate any of the terms of reference."</p> <p>See example proforma letter in Essential Reference Paper B(ii).</p> <p>The large majority of addresses given are in Bishop's Stortford – most in South ward - or Thorley. A very small minority of addresses are from elsewhere in East Herts or outside the district.</p>