

EXECUTIVE – 11 SEPTEMBER 2018

BACKGROUND PAPER TO THE REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF BISHOP'S STORTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

RESPONSES TO SECOND STAGE CONSULTATION

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Williams John

From:
Sent: 28 June 2018 10:00
To: Williams John
Subject: RE: Community Governance Review of Bishop's Stortford Town Council - draft recommendations and further consultation

Dear John

Thank you for this and here is the BSTC Response

Bishop's Stortford Town Council welcomes and supports the revised proposals made by East Herts District Council. The rationale for the Town Council support has previously been set out in the response to the first round of consultation. More specifically BSTC

- Supports the parish boundary changes now proposed by EHDC
- Supports the ward boundary changes proposed by EHDC which follow the proposals made by BSTC
- Supports the proposal that the Boundary Commission be requested to make corresponding changes in District Wards/County divisions
- Request a reduction in the number of Town Councillors to 17 in accordance with the scheme set out below on the grounds that this would improve electoral balance
- Makes no comment on the proposed arrangements for Thorley Parish

Proposed distribution of Councillors

Ward	# Cllrs	Electorat e Feb 2018	Ratio feb 2018	Electorat e Feb 2023	#Councill ors	Ratio Feb 2023 (Option 3)
All Saints	4	6,071	1,517.75	6,152	3	2,050.67
Central	4	7,250	1,812.50	8,277	4	2,069.25
Meads	3	4,634	1,544.67	11,765	3	1,960.83
Silverleys	3	4,275	1,425		3	
South	4	6,844	1,711	7,497	4	1,874.25
Total	18	29,074	1,615.22	33,691	17	1,981.82
Variance %			24%			10%

Notes: Feb 2023 electorate based on District figures (Essential Reference paper E to the meeting of 16 May)
 Forecast figures for Silverleys/Meads aggregated because accurate information not available on the dist

Yours sincerely

James Parker

John Williams

From:
Sent: 08 August 2018 09:22
To: John Williams
Cc: 'James Parker'
Subject: Community Governance Review - Bishop's Stortford/Thorley

Dear John

Please find below a submission from Bishop's Stortford Town Council in respect of the above consultation.

Bishop's Stortford Town Council notes that a further consultation paper Council ('Addendum Consultation Form') relating to the Community Governance Review of the boundary between Bishop's Stortford and Thorley parishes been issued by East Herts District issued and makes the comments below.

Please note that the comments previously made in respect of the Draft recommendation by East Herts District Council still stand, these additional comments relate to the three options set out by Thorley Parish Council.

Options 1 and 2:

If option 1 or 2 were adopted the contiguous urban area of Bishop's Park, which is also contiguous with the Town of Bishop's Stortford, would be divided between the parish of Bishop's Stortford and the Parish of Thorley. This fails to meet the guidance set out in paragraph 83 of the Guidance published by DCLG in March 2010.

Bishop's Stortford Town Council further notes that no argument has been provided to support the proposition that the built up area of St Michaels Mead is divided in two in terms of its character or identity. In the absence of such evidence the proposal, which puts a parish boundary through the centre of the contiguous built-up area in question, runs contrary to the guidance in paragraph 52 and elsewhere that parish boundaries should reflect areas of shared identity and interest.

In addition these options suffer from the failings identified below under option 3.

Accordingly Bishop's Stortford Town Council opposes options 1 and 2 and considers that they should be rejected on the grounds set out above.

Option 3:

Bishop's Stortford Town Council welcomes the fact that, in option 3, it is recognised that St Michaels Mead, which is currently divided between two parishes, should lie entirely within the parish of Bishop's Stortford. BSTC has no comment to make in respect of Southern Country park as this area does not, and will not in the foreseeable future, have any human inhabitants to define identity.

However if option 3 were adopted the area known as 'Land South of Bishop's Stortford' which has been designated for housing in the emerging District Plan (which has now passed inspection and so has material weight and is anyway expected to be formally adopted in September 2018) , would lie within Thorley parish.

Having regard to the stipulations of the District plan the development in question will be relatively high density housing of an urban nature which is contiguous with the built up area of Bishop's Stortford. This alone fails the test in paragraph 83 that boundaries between parishes should generally fall in 'no mans land' which is not a description that could be applied to Whittington Way. It is clear that the new development, being urban and modern, will have much more in common with the urban area of Bishop's Stortford than the more rural nature of Thorley as it would be defined in the EHDC proposal.

Furthermore the number of dwellings in the new development will significantly exceed the number in the balance of Thorley Parish, ie the parish would, in this option, become predominantly urban. If this option were adopted, Thorley would therefore be a new *Urban* Parish adjacent to (and contiguous with) the Urban Parish of Bishop's Stortford rather than predominantly a rural parish reflected in draft recommendation made by EHDC.

The division of a contiguous built up area into two urban parishes is not normal outside very large conurbations and would fit within the guidelines only if there were very distinct characters. No evidence has been produced that this will be the case and it is instead evident that market forces and the guidance in the District plan will combine to ensure that the development will be broadly similar in character to other recent urban extensions to the Town at Thorley Park, St Michaels Mead, Bishop's Park and Bishop's Stortford North all of which are closely connected to the town. The proposal therefore runs contrary to the guidance in paragraph 52 and elsewhere that parish boundaries should reflect areas of shared identity and interest.

Furthermore it is certain that, like the residents of the existing 'urban extensions' of Thorley Park, St Michaels Mead and Bishops Park, the residents of this new development will make extensive use of the facilities provided by Bishop's Stortford Town Council and funded by the Council Tax Payers of the Parish of Bishop's Stortford. The number of homes in the new development is material in relation to the size of Bishop's Stortford and there would therefore be a legitimate argument that Bishop's Stortford Town Council should seek to charge the residents of the new area for the services they use. This would impose an additional burden and violates the principle that local government should be 'effective and convenient'.

In summary it is clear that option 3 is significantly inferior, in terms of the guidelines set out in the March 2010 document, to the recommendation made by the District Council. It violates these guidelines in several material respects and no objective evidence has been produced to justify this violation.

Accordingly Bishop's Stortford Town Council opposes this proposal and considers that it should be rejected on the grounds set out above.

Yours sincerely

James Parker

Chief Executive Officer

Bishop's Stortford Civic Federation

Registered Charity Number R264557

www.stortfordcf.org.uk



John Williams Esq
Electoral Services Officer
East Herts Council
Wallfields
Pegs Lane
Hertford
SG13 8EQ

31 July 2018

Dear Mr Williams

THORLEY PARISH COUNCIL BOUNDARY ALTERATIONS

I am writing on behalf of the Bishop's Stortford Civic Federation to comment on the second stage consultation on changes to Thorley Parish boundary. Our comments relate to land south of Whittington Way.

The justification advanced for taking this into Bishop's Stortford is that electorate forecasts based on planning consents and projections in the District Plan suggest that by February 2023 there will be approximately 500 electors living on the site. This assertion relates entirely to proposals for new development on the site since it is suggested that existing dwellings to the east of the site should remain in Thorley Parish. However, the forecast is patently wrong.

The Inspector's report on the district plan has now been published. Revised Appendix B, summarising the housing numbers, contemplates that only 200 dwellings will have been completed by 2022. We understand from other sources that the developer will be seeking planning permission for a rather smaller number within that timescale, all of them being on the part of the site that already falls within the boundary of Bishop's Stortford Town Council.

I might also add that the claim that the area of proposed development falls partly within the current Parish of Thorley but not in Thorley Village itself is unsubstantiated. It appears to rely on a village being defined only by its buildings and not by the open spaces between them.

We therefore conclude that there is no case for amending the boundaries between Thorley and Bishop's Stortford at this time and that the appropriate time to consider the issue, if it is still felt to be necessary, should be after 2022.

Yours sincerely

02 AUG 2018

Williams John

From: donotreply@eastherts.gov.uk
 Sent: 23 June 2018 18:00
 To:
 Subject: Community Governance Review Form Submitted

Form Submission

Community Governance Review of Ward Boundaries within Bishop's Stortford –Second Stage Consultation Form

Contact Details

Name Parsonage Residents Association
 Address Parsonage Hall, Bishop's Stortford
 Postcode CM23 5PY
 Email address (a copy of this completed form will be sent to this address)
 Please provide your age range 26-34
 What is your connection with the area under review? Other
 If other, please provide further details Residents Association

Consultation Questions

Ward boundaries within Bishop's Stortford Town Council - Do you agree that changes should be made to the town council ward boundaries within Bishop's Stortford as described in the consultation page and maps on our **Community Governance Review: Second Stage Consultation page** (this link opens in a new window)

No

Please give any further comments or reasons for your response here

Ward boundaries should remain the same or be kept to local main roads for instance All Saints B1383 and A1060, Meads B1383 and A1250, Silverleys A1250 and B1004, South Ward B1040 and A1060, the remaining boundaries to Uttlesford and Thorley Parish should remain. A Central ward should remain. Your own document states 'change to boundary so that split is at a natural point', which this suggestion would incorporate.

District council ward and county council division boundaries – If the above changes to the town council ward boundaries go ahead, do you agree that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England should be asked to change the relevant district council ward and county council division boundaries where necessary to align them with the revised town ward boundaries?

No

Please give any further comments or reasons

Ward boundaries should remain the same or be

for your response here

kept to local main roads for instance All Saints B1383 and A1060, Meads B1383 and A1250, Silverleys A1250 and B1004, South Ward B1040 and A1060, the remaining boundaries to Uttlesford and Thorley Parish should remain. A Central ward should remain. Your own document states 'change to boundary so that split is at a natural point', which this suggestion would incorporate.

Do you have any other comments on the arrangements for parish governance in the area?

The Council states that 'The status of Thorley Village as a Group 3 village within the emerging District Plan will not be affected.' we do not think this is true, as by adopting this change to boundaries you greatly reduce the number of residents and potential residents in any future development which would benefit the residents of the Thorley Parish Council.

Data Protection Clause

For the purposes of current data protection laws the information you supply the Council as part of your application will be used for the purposes of dealing with your request and retained as per our published corporate data protection privacy policy which can be found on the [**East Herts District Council Data Protection page**](#) (this link opens in a new window).

From time to time this information may be shared with other Council departments and / or outside partners to process your request as effectively as possible. Please confirm you have read the above privacy notice

Yes

CLOSE FORM

John Williams

From:
Sent: 10 August 2018 14:24
To: John Williams
Cc:
Subject: RE: Community Governance Review of Bishop's Stortford Town Council

Dear John

County Councillors who represent the Electoral Divisions within Bishop's Stortford have been canvassed and provided the following views:

Colin Woodward - I do not agree with any of the three options and believe that the outcome of the CGR, short of the original set out by BS Town Council, would be for the compromise proposal put forward by E Herts District Council. It is self-evident that all urban extensions to Bishop's Stortford, both existing and as set out in the EHC District Plan, incorporate communities that use the services of Bishop's Stortford TC, (Thorley Parish effectively has none) paid for by current and future BSTC Council Tax payers along with the infrastructure. It is generally recognised that a by-pass provides a sensible boundary and this is the case in BS, subject *perhaps*, to the compromise by EHC, effectively would well define and distinguish the urban from the rural. It still leaves TPC as a very viable parish and no smaller than it was prior to some of current estates eg St Michael's Mead confusingly in part falling into TPC and dividing communities and leading to inequitable Council Taxation.

TPC seem to harbour a view (wrongly) that including land within their parish of small scattered hamlets will stop future urban extensions/development

John Wylie - As an East Herts and BSTC member I fully support the Town Councils plan, this will allow the new development to be fully absorbed into the Town

I am against the Thorley Parish proposals as this will lead to a fragmentation of the Town community and I believe will be detrimental to Thorley Parish in the long run as the new residents will see themselves as part of Bishop's Stortford and could lead to a different feel at Thorley Parish meetings when an extra c700 houses join them

Regards
Steve

Steve Charteris

Head of Democratic & Statutory Services | Resources | Hertfordshire County Council

John Williams

From:
Sent: 06 August 2018 12:08
To: Legal & Democratic Services - Electors
Subject: Fwd: Community Governance Review - Bishop's Stortford/Thorley
Attachments: Second Stage Consultation CGR BS Addendum hard copy form.pdf

I favour Option 3. It makes absolute sense that St Michael's Mead residents should not be within the parish boundary and as there are no electors residing in Southern Country Park why move it out of Thorley Parish in to Town Council? Our main partner is East Herts Council and it would appear that it makes little difference to us if the park sits within Parish or Town Council boundaries, unless there is a hidden agenda.

Friends of Southern Country Park

John Williams, **Electoral Services Officer**
Direct Dial: 01279 502147
East Herts Council
Wallfields, Pegs Lane, Hertford SG13 8EQ

31st July 2018

RE 2ND Stage CGR Consultation response – Boundary map proposal from OTTRA

Dear Mr Williams,

1. On behalf of OTTRA I should like to submit for consideration as part of the second CGR consultation a town/parish boundary proposal that differs from the one proposed in EHDC's consultation leaflet and builds on the proposal sent to you by Thorley parish council. If you recall, during the first consultation, OTTRA in its response indicated its intention to submit a boundary proposal and at the recent public meeting, there being no opportunity to raise the issue, we agreed I should write to you further on the draft map I had been preparing.
2. My reason for making this submission is that I believe my extensive local knowledge would be helpful in arriving at an arrangement that would both satisfy the criteria for decision making on boundary change with respect to correction or avoidance of anomalies in equal sharing of existing or expected electoral representation and also, at the same time, respect the preferences and circumstances of the existing communities/settlements in Thorley Street, Thorley Lane and Church Lane that will be affected by CBR change. Only a handful of St Michael's Mead residents have so far voiced any opinion.
3. I should say here that in this submission I am paying no direct attention to the 'if, when and where' discussions about re-positioning of boundaries to achieve (a) green belt removal, (b) BISH5 development and (c) town governance of Thorley site. OTTRA is opposed to all three. Because these are crucial issues, however, I do show on the map alternative lines of boundary that might need to be considered after formal adoption of new District Plan policies and Main Modifications on issues (a) and (b) in October 2018 and in the event of full Council approval of CGR question 6 relating to issue (c).
4. My submission therefore is specifically with reference to questions 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 set out in the 2nd Stage Consultation Response form. Answers are respectively Yes, No, Yes, Yes, Yes and Yes but with 7 councillors. In brief summary, we want status quo governance for Thorley parish, deferral of Review decisions until such time as population movement and increases have occurred, and the chance to take this Review opportunity to put right earlier anomalies that, probably unwittingly, placed within the town boundary all Thorley parishioners historically belonging to the parish but living in Thorley Lane.

5. I should also say that, in discussion with residents [excluding St Michael's Mead] I have so far found the most popular views to be (a) that the town council should withdraw its request to take over jurisdiction of land in Thorley parish, and (b) that officers – on grounds of prematurity and unsound projections relating to population increases before 2023 – should recommend that the current Review considers only minor or uncontentious change proposals, as at questions 5 and 11, leaving the issue of radical Thorley parish boundary change, with all its complexity, to a later more appropriate date.
6. Further, with respect to population change projections, it should not be forgotten that transfer of St Michael's Mead housing to town control will halve the current size of Thorley parish electorate at parish level, but increase the town's South Ward parish size; it is not at all clear if projections in the 2nd stage consultation leaflet have taken account of this. Similarly, is it realised that Thorley parish electorate at district level will return to its full size once question 10 is agreed, which means that there will be no parish urban ward in existence for the town to continue representing at district level as part of its South Ward?
7. Returning to the OTTRA town/parish boundary proposal that I am submitting [see attached map], I have used a large scale map showing named streets in the three housing areas lying adjacent one to another in an east-west line north of the shared town/parish civil boundary.
8. The street map enables us to pinpoint locations of individual houses and so draw accurate lines around estates and communities. It is an astounding fact that one tenet of good planning, namely the need for clearly visible 'containment', was observed when Twyford Park and Thorley Park estates were built in the 70s and earlier, although not so in the 1990s when St Michael's Mead was allowed to straddle the civil town boundary in a far corner of Thorley parish. It is of interest to note that this anomaly has not bothered the town for over 20 years, nor even the parish, since St Michael's Mead residents have shown little interest in becoming part of the village community or in forming their own.
9. Below you will see descriptions of the three housing areas, all at the boundary with Thorley, which I hope you can follow on the map. What I am trying to demonstrate is that each is different in characteristics, and that sense of place is more crucial in how a cohesive community develops than planners' assumptions about way of life and linkage. Our widespread view is that making electoral decisions prematurely about new development such as BISH5 cannot realistically have successful outcome, especially when there appears to be strong assertion by the masterplan steering group that the new development is not intended to fit in with traditional landscape and design, that there will be complete separation between the two centrally located schools and the surrounding rim of housing neighbourhoods, and that services will be located alongside the bypass at the furthest distance away from other Thorley dwellers, be they under town governance or not. Given the scenarios I describe below it is hardly believable that new residents are likely to feel they belong to the town as town councillors assert.
10. Readers should further know that of immediate impact for any walker along the length of Thorley Lane is the distinctive and continuous line of change from built-up town suburbia to openness of green countryside, landscape and horizon. To those planning officers and councillors insisting that the bypass is the 'natural' containment line for development in the south of town, we say No, it isn't, unless you draw it as a line on a piece of paper or view it

from the air. From the ground it cannot be seen. It sits below land surface level, nestling in to the landscape as do the village houses in Thorley Street, and far into the horizon the land still looks like the one expanse of farmland it always was. Thorley already has its containment line thanks to the vision of earlier planners. What town councillors describe as southern town extension would in reality be intrusive annexation and domination of village and parish. In our view, the ring doughnut effect would introduce an alien 'culture' into our midst and challenge all sense of local community, cohesion and belonging.

- A. Twyford Park, 240 houses, looks away from town towards Thorley village and if you walk its perimeter you will find there is no vehicular way through to London Road in the east, nor to the Boys High School to the north, nor to Thorley Parkin the west, just one egress point located at a crossing of Thorley Lane to the south leading onto Whittington Way. These residents for over 50 years have always lived as a thriving community feeling that they belonged in Thorley rather than their market town .
- B. Thorley Park, 2500 houses, is high-fenced or hedged for its whole length along the north side of Thorley Lane, from Pynchbek where the new Whittington Way severed old Thorley Lane, past the lone roundabout on the boundary giving Friedburg and Villiers sur Marne sole access to the estate from the south, then through the wooded part of old Thorley Lane where the Hertfordshire Way crosses from the parish to the town, on past the Old Thorley Rectory on the right and Church Lane junction on the left leading to church and community centres, past the village cricket ground on the right and the southern parkland car park on the left which leads on to Stone Hall [the oldest dwelling in Thorley village] and the Premier Court care home, eventually stopping at the junction with Moor Hall Lane where the road is stopped and St Michael's Mead boundary begins.

These closely suburbanised residents have footpaths inviting them literally to step southwards across Thorley Lane into the green openness and rich footpath network centring on Thorley village church and radiating out in all directions across farmland and valleys to settlements large and small and reaching to the river and towpath. Behind to the north is Sainsbury's shopping precinct with all the very many services [doctor, chemist, postoffice, pub, petrol, restaurants, pet shop, schools, charity shop, children's play etc] that everyone in the wide Thorley area needs and where people meet. The only vehicular access to Bishop's Stortford town centre on the north side is on the Gt Hadham Road leading to Windhill past no fewer than three schools. These residents, especially in the southern half, feel very strong ties with Thorley and some have always believed they live in Thorley. Town is primarily where they go to catch a train, travel to school, or get to destinations on or beyond the M11. Everyone's first and foremost serious problem relates to traffic flow, a sustainable strategy for which is still lacking.

- C. St Michael's Mead, 911 houses, can only be accessed by vehicle from Thorley parish land to the west at two roundabouts close to each other on the bypass, one of which takes cars into Moor Hall Lane which marks the metropolitan greenbelt boundary and, for a short distance, the northern border of the country park. There is no vehicular link with Thorley Park to the east, nor with the Gt Hadham Road to the north which leads to town. These residents are isolated, tend not to mix, are mainly commuters, some engaging in church activities or dogwalking, some in expensive 3-storey houses at the

edge of the southern park and others in blocks of flats out of sight in the northern park. This estate feels empty; it has made no mark locally in 16 years.

11. Thorley parish heritage, stemming from Romano British times, is a collection of small communities, at one time tenanted farm settlements, stretching around the 14th century church and down across the valleys to Thorley Street, the main highway to market, and beyond to the towpath and river at Twyford lock in Pig Lane where residences today stand on land once worked as Valley farms and water mill. The character of the land and people has not changed. Farming is visibly still the occupation taking up extensive swathes of parish land; the paths and bridleways remain as linkages between these groupings that together comprise and energise the village of Thorley having the church of St James the Great at its heart. Paths are still well used, increasingly so, but now for enjoyment, health and wellbeing, not work. Families living here for generations don't want to leave, and invariably newcomers soon feel they belong.
12. When the largest of the three housing estates was built and Whittington Way was constructed as a distributor road, the parish boundary was drawn to follow the line of Thorley Lane while keeping some distance to the south of it, thereby aligning more closely with the existing metropolitan greenbelt boundary and providing enough width for Whittington Way to be built on the town side of the shared boundary. This inevitably caused a number of historic Thorley dwellings situated on both sides of Thorley Lane, such as the Rectory, Thorley House, Stone Hall, Hither Farm and the Schoolhouse, also Rectory Close council houses, to become separated from the parish and sit uncomfortably in town territory on the wrong side of the civil boundary belonging to neither Thorley Park estate nor Twyford Park estate, nor yet to Thorley parish governance. This current CGR is now an opportunity to 'tidy up' that anomaly and reclaim Thorley heritage, by simply keeping the same shape of the boundary following the line of Thorley Lane but moving it up a small distance northwards so that it sits on the town side of Thorley Lane, thereby placing erstwhile Thorley parish dwellers back into the village where they belong.
13. This is in fact the proposal I am making. It addresses questions 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 in the 2nd Stage Consultation Response form. It is not at odds with the Thorley Parish proposal. It meets the CGR criteria set out above in para 2. It clarifies and facilitates what the LGBC in question 12 should be asked to do, which is to take Thorley parish back to being a wardless parish with 7 councillors as first appointed in 1894 and with representation responsibility at district level returned to the member for Much Hadham, Cllr Devonshire. I list below the 34 houses affected: Corner Cottage, the Mulvany residence, 1 & 2 Thorley Place Cottages, Thorley Place [hotel now converted], Premier Court care home, Stone Hall, 1 & 2 Sunset Cottages, Church View, Harringtons, Stone Hall, Pendle, The Old Rectory, Thorley Scout Hall, Old School House, White Cottage, 1-4 Rectory Close, Hither Farm, 6-11 Park View Cottages, Sparrows Nest, and Thorley House.

We hope these observations are helpful and informative. We would expect there to be in due course much more discussion and engagement with the electorate on matters touched on in para 3 above.

POST SCRIPT

John, If the Council approves of town governance of the empty BISH5 site [question 6], then there are a number of issues in question with respect to my proposed positioning of the boundary line alongside Thorley Street:

- a) There is private legal ownership of Highland and Hawthorn roads plus strip of field connecting them
- b) There lawfully needs to be a strip of openness between communities, in this case the town's new village and the existing parish Thorley Street
- c) BISH5 housing close against Thorley properties south of Saxons would be intolerable for Thorley Street residents with respect to traffic noise and street lighting back and front [also increasing low aircraft flying overhead] because they are kerb side houses and have no gardens back or front, some even with their upper storeys level with field surface rising behind them
- d) Putting the boundary line east of Thorley Street would go through Thorley allotments and Thorley Wash wildlife preservation area, not good for community governance
- e) Putting the boundary line down the middle of Thorley Street would in effect replicate the Thorley Lane community governance problem we are trying to solve, namely the placing of residents in one jurisdiction when they belong to a community in another
- f) I understand that the Council has approved a BISH5 masterplan (i) that seemingly from developers' submitted drawings does not take the above local knowledge into account and (ii) that we residents have not been given opportunity to feed into, despite the examiner's Main Modification re DES policy written into in the District Plan just made public [although not yet adopted]. Will the Council realise the significance of its prior approval of BISH5 masterplan layout when it comes to voting for or against town governance of BISH5 when populated?
- g) Why is everything so rushed when uncertainties abound and there is consequently high risk of making ill-informed decisions; why also let assumptions that are made without evidence influence decisions that would cause certain harm to existing communities? I am referring here to the councillors' reasoning that hundreds of new residents in a bespoke new location BISH5 are more likely to feel they belong to town rather than Thorley....we believe the new residents would mainly be families specifically choosing to live in a rural, rather than town, setting that is conveniently close to road and rail travel.

I hope there is some way we can be reassured that these comments will not be overlooked in the overall CGR consultation process. We should appreciate any advice on how best we can continue to participate after the 10th August response deadline. Will Council take notice of the Bishop's Stortford Southern Neighbourhood Plan? Thank you for your consideration of these points made to me when I met recently with Thorley Street residents.



Thorley Lane
Current boundary (below Thorley Lane) B
Proposed boundary (from title of Th. lane) PB
St Michael's Wood area
Twickenham Park area
Twickenham Road

Revision of Proposed boundary around BSHS
showing greenbelt removal & town connection
Note: boundary of 34 houses in Thorley Lane removed
from greenbelt, Twickenham Park area

B

D

The B. Stortford / Thorley boundary anomalies as stated in the CGR proposals are :-

St. Michaels Mead, Park View cottages , Rectory Close and presumption on adopted name of B.S. South land

1. St. Michael's Mead straddles the boundary because the last review moved B.Stortford boundary into Thorley with the intention that St.Michael's Mead would be incorporated into B.S. [obviously ill thought out] and this move also created the anomaly in Thorley Lane/ Church Lane [Rectory Close].
2. 6-9 Park View cottages I don't know if they changed in the last review, but it's more than likely also the result of the last review.
3. The B.S. boundary moved south of Whittington Way and Thorley Lane with no apparent reason but extended past what they term as obvious physical boundaries.
4. If the boundary line had stayed where it was and not moved, there would never have been the possibility of cross border straddling on that site.

So it seems as if all the present "border" anomalies are the result of the last CGR. Thus maybe the correct solution would be to nullify the last review, or to accept a new Thorley Parish proposal, but lessons should be learned from previous mistakes, and maybe regression would be seen as progression.

THORLEY/BISHOPS STORTFORD CGR.

From the point of view of satisfying the terms of reference.

Map EHDC original proposal :-

The original proposals were illogical and did not satisfy the terms of reference or guidelines and was rejected by EHDC .

Map EHDC present proposal :-

The second and subsequently the present proposal takes a large tract of land out of Thorley but does not satisfy all community or electoral issues.

Map Thorley proposal 1 :-

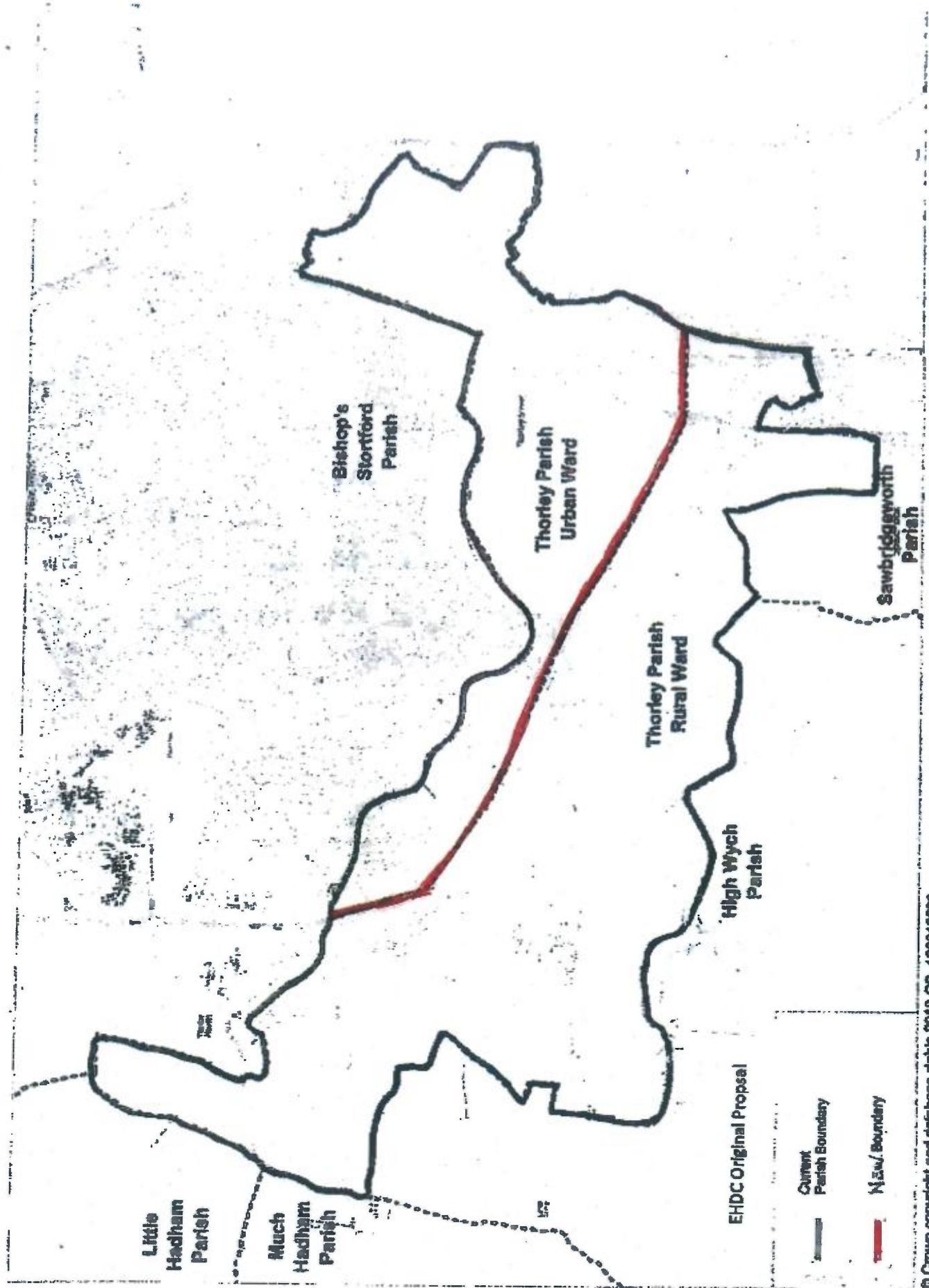
Is the most logical proposal and negates possibility of cross boundary in future development with less than 5 ha. changing boundary from B. Stortford to Thorley with very few properties changing parishes and satisfies physical boundary issues.

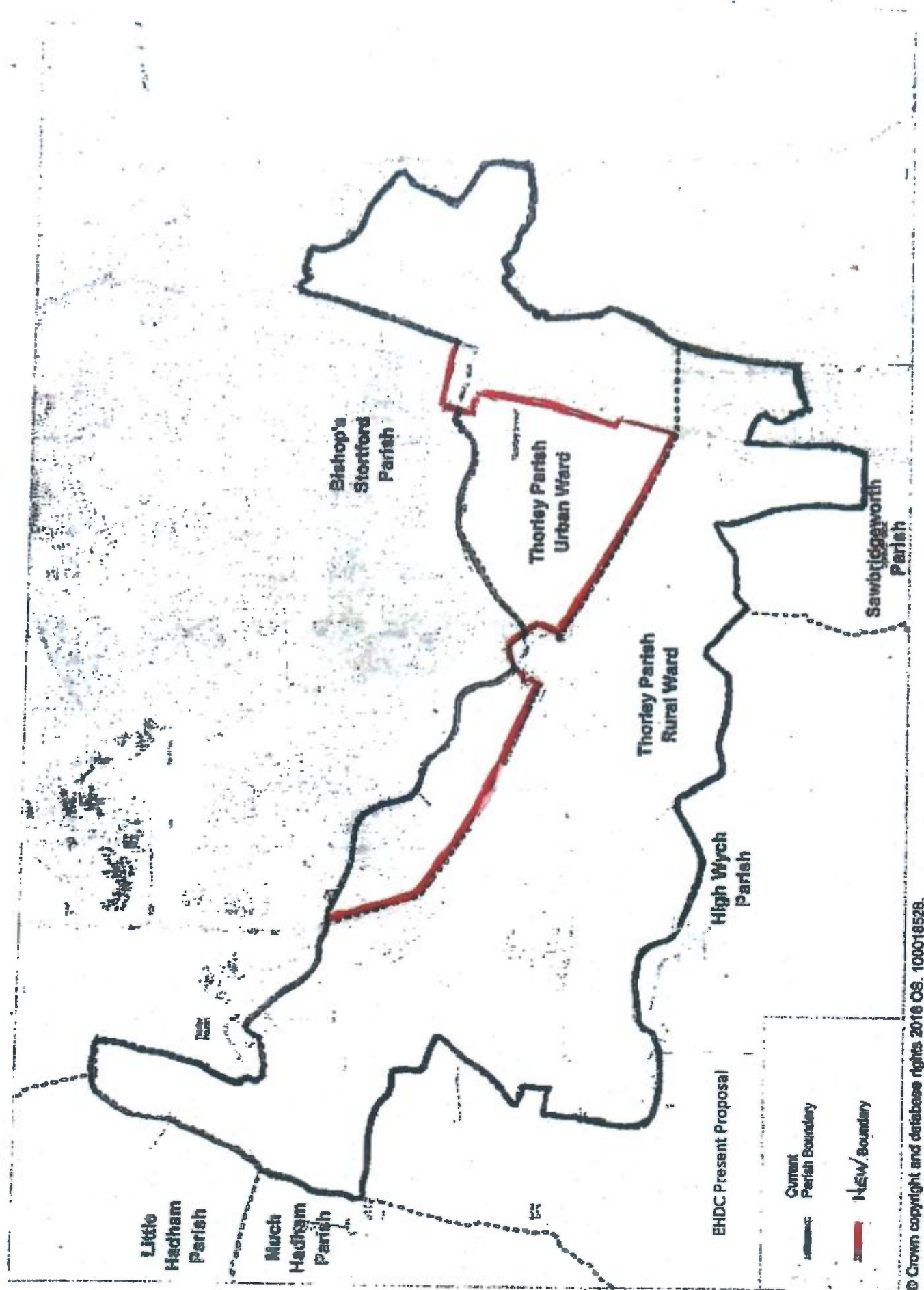
Map Thorley proposal 2 :-

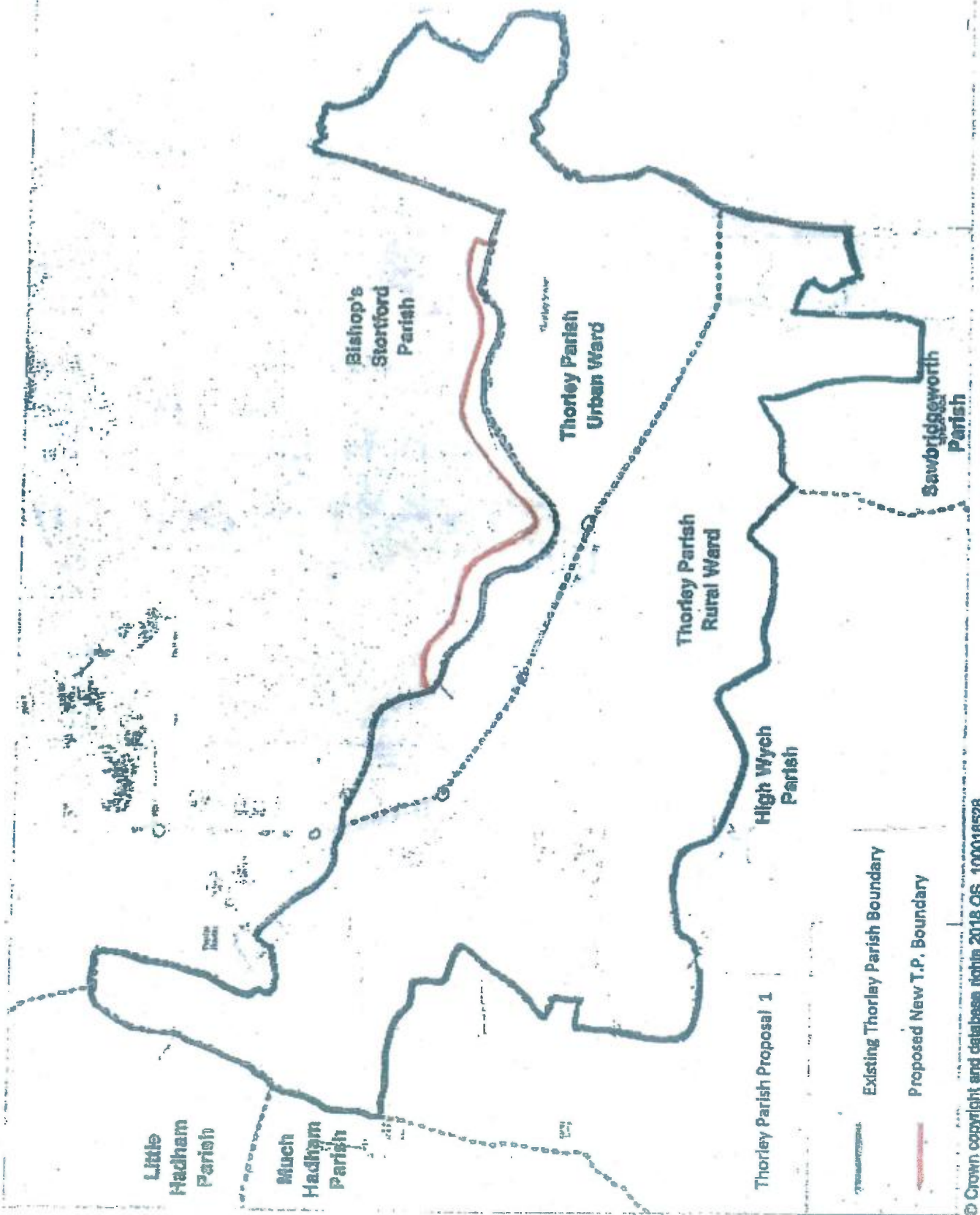
Satisfies all of proposal 1 plus ratifies St. Michael's Mead with a more logical boundary split.

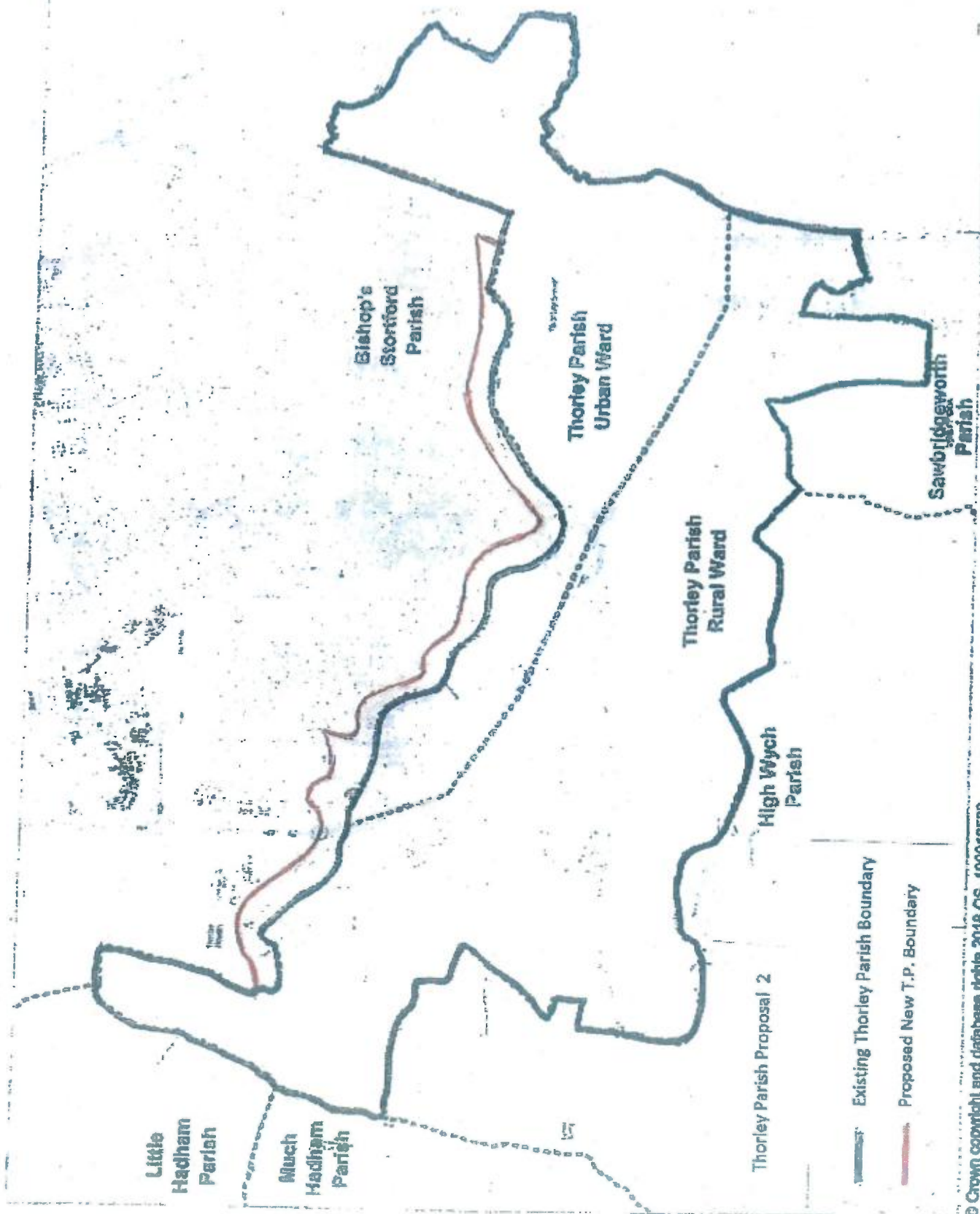
Map Thorley proposal 3 :-

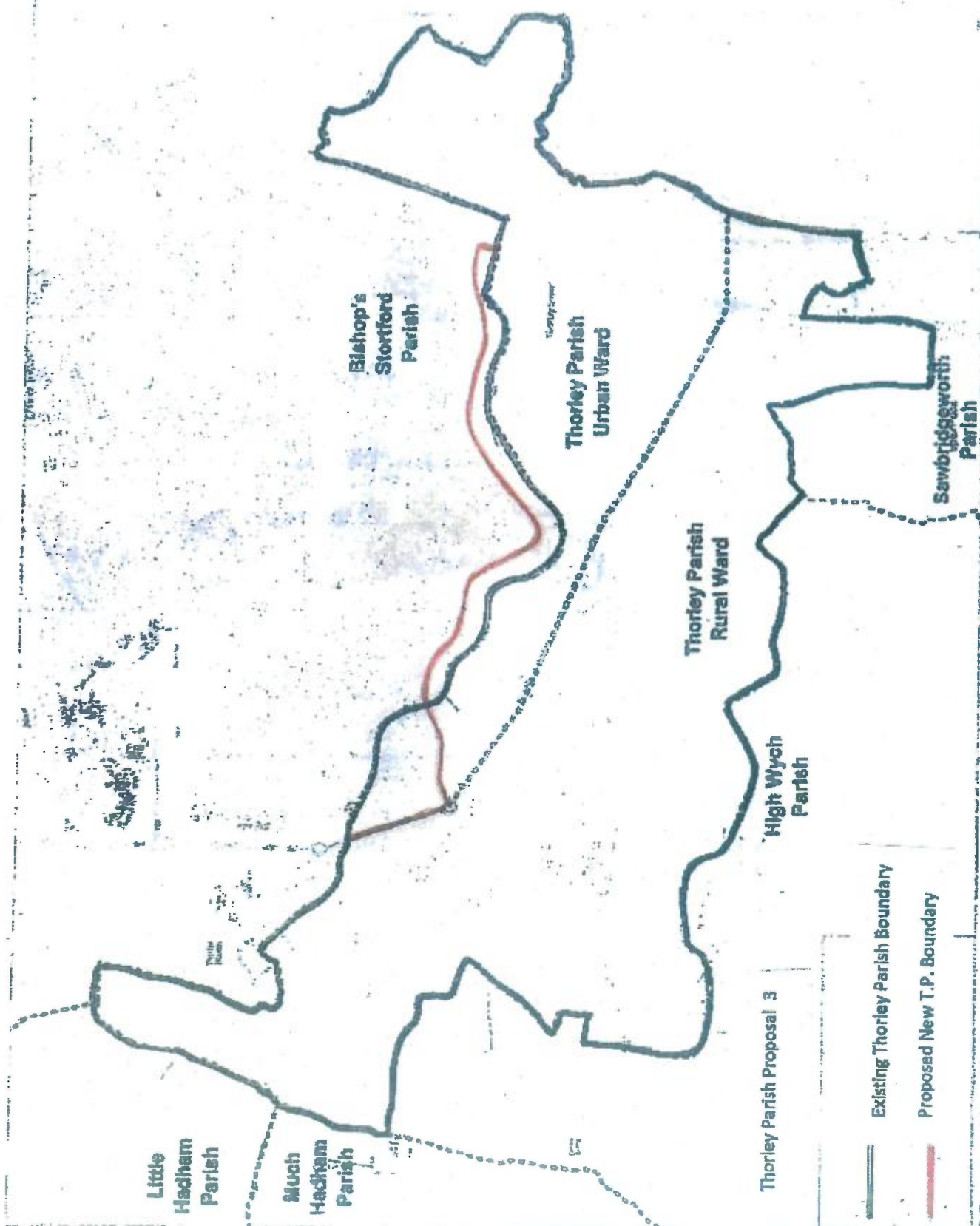
Satisfies all terms of reference , hands over the Thorley part of St. Michael Mead to B. Stortford , and hands over the fringe area of B. Stortford to Thorley.











**PETITION FORM :- FOR THORLEY PARISH COUNCIL :- RE - EHDC 2nd PUBLIC
CONSULTATION ON COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF REVISED PROPOSALS
OF THORLEY/B. STORTFORD PARISH BOUNDARY CHANGE.**

The stated terms of reference for the review are :- a) Tidying up of electoral ward anomalies in the local areas. b) To be reflective of community identity and community cohesiveness. c) To provide for effective and convenient local government. d) To facilitate provision of local services.

On 16th May 2018, the Full Council recommended the following proposals for further Public Consultation:-

1[a] The whole of that part of St Michael's Mead within the Thorley Parish existing boundary to be transferred to Bishops Stortford.

Do you AGREE ☐

or DISAGREE ☐

1[b] Have any of the items in the terms of reference been demonstrated which you think would benefit residents of either parish or warrant this boundary change.

YES ☐

NO ☐

2[a] The whole of the land south of Whittington Way, known as "Thorley Valleys" which is proposed for housing development, known in the East Herts District Plan as (BISH 5) be transferred to Bishops Stortford.

Do you AGREE ☐

or DISAGREE ☐

2[b] Have any of the items in the terms of reference been demonstrated which you think would benefit residents of either parish or warrant this boundary change.

YES ☐

NO ☐

3[a] Thorley Street, Pig Lane and Twyfordbury Lane areas should remain part of Thorley Parish

Do you AGREE ☐

or DISAGREE ☐

3[b] Are there any items in the terms of reference which would demonstrate any detriment to residents by remaining in Thorley parish.

YES ☐

NO ☐

4[a] That all of the houses in Church Lane and Rectory Close, including the Old School House should be re-incorporated back into Thorley.

Do you AGREE ☐

or DISAGREE ☐

4[b] Are there any items in the terms of reference which would demonstrate that there would be advantage to the residents to remain in Bishops Stortford.

YES ☐

NO ☐

Signed: Name:- Date:

Address:

.....

.....

10 August 2018

Dear Sirs

Response to 2nd stage consultation regarding Bishop's Stortford/Thorley

Having read the front page article in The Times yesterday – heading People power: residents given direct say in local government – Greg Hurst Social Affairs Editor – I would argue that East Herts DC and BS Town Council should at least listen to their current residents and communities with regard to this 2nd stage consultation. I have taken the time today to look at East Herts DC web site and am concerned that there is no written or otherwise reference to the public meeting held on this, no 'frequently' asked questions and answers published on this – although John Williams said at the public meeting that these would be published. There would appear to be very strong feeling from residents in Thorley Parish and surrounding wards that some of the draft proposals are not what they consider to be reflective of their identities and interests of the community in the Thorley area; and since some decisions seem to be based on residents that do not currently exist cannot be seen to be effective and convenient in governance terms.

Some of the information that could be considered to be vital – ie the 2nd stage leaflet referring readers to the full report of responses that may be viewed at www.eastherts.gov.uk/consultations is not accurate since this page does not even have a link to the full report. The next paragraph states that 'Most respondents did not support the town council's proposal.' Whilst the leaflet then goes on to almost give excuses as to why this is not seemingly recognised as an accurate public view as it is, in their view, based on reasons as being related to over-development or from 'most responses were from people living outside the area affected' – equally to date there does not appear to be any evidence of how BS Town Council can evidence that the Whittington Way site and Southern Country Park should be transferred from Thorley Parish to BS Town Council 'considers that once developed the area will have more in common with the town of Bishop's Stortford, will be different in character to other parts of Thorley, and that future residents of this urban extension are likely to feel part of the Bishop's Stortford community.' How EHDC can oppose the Thorley community's view that by splitting an envisaged extension to BS Town Council's boundaries would strengthen their community and empower local people so that they feel that by asking for people to have their say this is supposed to be a way in which people can have a sense of control over their communities' future. At the public meeting BS Town Councillor agreed that probably the Town Council should have discussed their proposal with Thorley Council before being put forward for a review. The public meeting was part of the consultation process – not for councillors to state what will be happening – taking no regard to what the public was strongly saying. A consultation process should have no preconceived proposals.

My other concern throughout all of these consultations has been the lack of paper-based information so that the public were even aware of what was happening on their door step. At the public meeting attendees were saying that it was only due to a local residents association that they were aware of the consultation. I have already outlined my concerns from stage

one, stage two unfortunately was no better with two very similar leaflets being displayed in one pile, not yet available or only on request (so you had to know that these were available). The EHDC reception not even know that there were two different leaflets – that it was planning dept who I should speak to about requesting for a paper form to complete – that the addendum was not forwarded to people who had registered on the e-petition for the public meeting. (Unfortunately the South Ward councillor did not know that e-petitions even existed.) At my request there were paper forms available at the public meeting.

My questions below – most have not yet been answered – submitted at the public meeting – so yet again I say that I have been unable to have my say due to poor consultation. I would hope that another public meeting that would be held in Bishop's Stortford – would be held in September (ie outside the school holiday period) both during the day and the evening – so that the issues that are being raised by local people can be listened to.

Questions

M25 394 proforma letters – the proposed changes do not demonstrate any of the terms of reference.

Why were these letters not taken as evidence of concerns and issues as part of the consultation process?

Differences between Terms of Reference and Annual Council meeting 16 May 2018 Report by Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Office – draft recommendations

Report	Terms of reference
1.2 Boundary alterations between existing parishes	1.8 Not listed
Question: If it is not listed in TOF can it still be part of the review?	
	2.2 make key documents available at the DC offices and other venues in the parishes affected
Question: What are the key documents? Parish council did not know. Some were passed on by John Williams but would not have been generally available to all members of the public.	
	2.4 The council (Assume EHDC) is mindful that proposals which are intended to reflect community identity and local linkages should be justified in terms of sound and demonstrable evidence of those identities and linkages.
Question: Where is there any evidence from EHDC or BS Town Council of sound and demonstrable evidence of those identities and linkages based on the proposed new boundaries – in particular Bish 5 and Southern Country Park?	
	2.2 talks about transparency but 3.1 doesn't include ALL committee meetings and dates

Question: Why were other meetings that the public may have wished to attend where the consultation was being discussed or debated omitted?	
	3.1 Deadline for consultation responses is stated as Friday 20 July 2018.
Question: Can the date in the Terms of Reference be changed as the leaflets cite 27 July 2018?	
	4.1 This issue talks about whether there would be a need for any change to parish boundaries and/or electoral arrangements.
Question: Why would any responses trying to identify that in their opinion there would not be a need for some of the proposed boundary changes by omitted a choice of NO CHANGE as opposed to DO NOT KNOW?	
2.1 (II) Developments are, or will be seen by residents as part of BS Town Council 7.9 The Town Council suggests that residents of these urban extensions are likely to feel part of the Bishop's Stortford community.	
Question: where is the evidence that this meets Terms of Reference 2.4 that this statement meets the requirement that they can justify this in terms of sound and demonstrable evidence of those identities and linkages?	
4.3 bullet point 4 – The Council will aim to select boundaries that are and are likely to be easily identifiable.	
Question: How can splitting Thorley between two arable pieces of land meet this aim? Effectively not only splitting Thorley parish but also South Ward.	
5.0 Consultation process	
Question: What efforts were made, particularly in light of some of the few responses from businesses, younger people, non-computer users, other vulnerable groups and so on, were made to expand the leafleting of the consultation? In particular South Ward changes do not seem to have been seen as 'not directly affected by the Town Council's specific proposals – even though they were the highest number of respondents (59.3%).	
7.3 Net effect of the proposed changes on electoral equality between wards - South ward would gain the largest number of electors (approx. 340) but its ratio would still remain within 3.0% of the town average.	
Question: How is the figure of 340 arrived at?	
Consultation responses 7.19 BSTC support proposal - the residents of Land South of Bishop's Stortford, do or will expect to take advantage of the services provided by BSTC.	
Question: Generally there appear to have been a number of comments regarding other parishes not contributing to services provided by BSTC and almost not encouraged to -but how can this 'comment' be seen to be cohesive as opposed to alienating communities? This may be more divisive in particular wards that adjoin Thorley – in particular a rather disjointed extension to South Ward.	
Question: There was a comment from a member of the public about perhaps restructuring and renaming Wards within the BS Town. Has there been any work undertaken on this suggestion.	

Finally I would now comment on various publications that are not dated – and it is not clear to me now how a final proposal can be put forward to EHDC since there have been extensions – the library is quoted as saying that they only make materials ‘available’ to the public – they are not somewhere that promotes or displays certain materials – in particular consultations. Rightly so. However one would have thought that the Tourist Information shop and the EHDC offices in Bishop’s Stortford would have correctly displayed two piles of the two different leaflets and would be able to refer me to the correct department – ie democratic services and not planning. So there are different dates, now an addendum, no published reference to the public meeting before the extended deadline – even different questions – with the copied form below showing where different numbering has been used – to confuse the public even more. There is still one question that asks two separate issues – regarding Thorley wards AND the number of councillors – one may want to say yes to the first part of the question and no to the second.

I have already completed some paper forms and Thorley petition but I am sure that you will gather from my concerns that with regard to the Thorley boundaries – there still seem to be some anomalies based on the suggested new changes – so more work appears to be done – assuming that councillors will already have physically attended the new changes. Unfortunately there does not appear to be local knowledge of the Thorley parish on which the first draft proposals were made.

Interestingly the EHDC web site does not list one community or village hall on its web site even though I know that at least one is used for local elections voting. Perhaps not many people consider that EHDC considers Bishop’s Stortford is a key town overall and the wishes and views of the people who live, work and study there should not be listened to. The Times article stating ‘Jeremy Wright, the culture secretary, and Tracey Crouch, minister for civil society, said “To meet the opportunities and threats of the future a new approach is needed that gives greater freedom and responsibility to our communities.”’

John Williams

From:
Sent: 03 August 2018 20:11
To: John Williams
Subject: PASS THIS EMAIL DIRECTLY TO THE LEADER OF EAST HERTS COUNCIL. RE: Community Governance Review - Bishop's Stortford/Thorley.

Dear Sir,

Hands off Thorley. Leave the Valley Fields alone.

I will respond properly when able to get advice on this matter. Please save all of our responses including ones like this.

Most ordinary people like me do not understand the work of overpaid councillors who create the so-called (and dodgy looking) "consultations". We only know that they appear DEFINITELY NOT DEMOCRATIC.

You have sent us maps which are in an excessively tiny and confusing format for us to clearly understand, and that, in a Council's you have given us an inadequate time-scale (as usual during peoples' holidays) in a seemingly flippant method) to gain our true opinion on a very serious matter.

[Some of us (but not all?) are receiving, in addition, communications also (at last) from Uttlesford Council asking for comments on their developments at Stansted Airport such as new taxi ranks].

The reply to all of these consultations should be "help us to understand it all, to get sufficient time after the summer holidays for response" and "are you studying if this is truly fair in who gets to see any clear information?" and "No we don't want it because it destroys our traditional good quality of life".

Why is Herts County council promoting *exercising in the fresh air?* yet destructive East Herts now proposes to obliterate the footpaths link between Hertfordshire Way, and Southern Park, and its link to the important Nature Reserve SSSI at Thorley Wash on the River Stort? refer to your maps!

Valley Fields are the wrong place for the imagined houses, schools, industry and retail. In your consultation of several years ago, one of your staff quoted on the brochure that this area "does not have any scenic interest" - how ignorant. A well preserved area of England's rolling ancient fields, if protected as such is always of great value.

Why increase over-crowded populations and traffic total gridlock?

It is a well known fact that plants, such as grass in fields, are what creates the air we breathe. Equals the **Reason for Green Belt**.

Enough is enough

Please note that ***no citizen in our town in history has ever succeeded in counteracting proposed developments by your Council***. This makes ***East Herts "Planners" an extremely unpopular group*** of personnel. (one assumes that your staff have never lived round here?).

For example, ***Councils (but not us; the Residents) achieved the following rotten results by doing precisely the opposite of what we pay you to do:-***

a) Stopped the creation of ANY **new Doctors Surgeries** (saying, eg, "there is no parking"). **Several more surgeries are very urgently needed**

b) to *destroy two real hospitals in Bishop's Stortford, one in Saffron Walden* etc for housing greed.

c) to permit recently a big building company called Countryside to post to us so "consultations" about un-passed and feeble "plans" and to which they permitted no response neither online nor by phone. Also, it is the WRONG space for housing, schools or supposed "workplace" or "retail" (*not adequately described - nor were the un-mentioned hideous massive blocks of flats with which you did ruin the town centre*)

d) to wish to continue to *ruin the (unreachable) town centre* your personnel (paid by us) appeared recently on "Look East" to describe another crazy bunch of Council ideas (what Residents don't want again?) re Charringtons area. Can't you just leave places alone to "evolve". People drive extra miles into Harlow just to avoid the Stortford gridlock and lack of useful shops (like the old Barratts, Pearsons, Boardmans, Woolworths and Tissimans(

e) council permitted a Southern park to be created, but won't save the Valley Fields as an add-on to this Park (*big Parks being are a crucial idea of radical decent town planning historically*) .

It is important that Thorley is helped to put maximum pressure upon Councils (or all "government"), and that local democracy is properly maintained and demonstrated to be non-devious. How do you know how many local residents actually get to read and study your communications?

People have not forgotten that Councils in Herts and Essex (with staff who mostly live in other places) are responsible over the past 50 years for ruining Bishop's Stortford for its residents by infilling and exaggeratedly massive over-development and congestion-creation.

Please record in your Comments about BIS5 (or whichever) section these two points regarding the proposed BIS5 and related BIS developments

1. When combined with extra population in homes yet-to-be-built at "Bishop's Stortford North" (and areas like Takeley), the proposed BIS5 is too much. A bottleneck will occur at the lights and the east end of bypass. The whole A1184 is inadequate and will become, through BS, a complete stand-still; very dangerous, especially with regard to it being the *route to the only hospital PAH Harlow*.

2. Because Brexit means we need more UK grown food, the *arable Valley fields have more value and should be completely protected from such council unnecessary and bad "planning"*.

3. If you build a new super-school you will be *doing Essex's school-building job for them* in attracting more traffic into the already gridlocked town of Bishop's Stortford.

Spend some of your spare cash if available on decent foot paths and pavements along Rye Street with better access for pedestrians into northern Castle gardens.

Sorry I have typed so much, but I am very angry about what East Herts council has have done and continue to try to do to ruin this town. Use any points but without my name please.

My next reply will be about the tiny maps you sent.

13 July 2018

Dear Sir,

The Herts County Council's advertised "DRAFT GREEN SPACE ACTION PLAN" and its promotion of "fresh air and exercise for all" is CONTRADICTED and damned by the East Herts Council proposed Development

Please could your Planning and Management Staff explain why Herts County Council contradictorily posts adverts (regarding getting fit on the paths of Southern Park Bishops Stortford) when concurrently (re **ADJACENT** expansive Green Belt), East Herts **plans total concrete -and -tarmac infilling of ever last remnant of lovely historic green space; by non-transparent, greedy "developers"**.

Herts CC Andrew Taylor ("away") is asking us online to provide the following suggestions for Herts CC "Draft Greenspace Action Plan".

My suggestions to East Herts Council and to Mr Taylor at Herts County Council are:-

1. That he should fully publicise this request for " suggestions" within Thorley and Bishop's Stortford.
2. To reinstate of all Thorley's and BS historic footpaths and rights of way in addition to creating cycle paths along the main bypasses (when built the council considered such ideas as cycle paths as a joke)
3. To prevent East Herts Council's breach of the southern Green Belt boundary south of Thorley, Bishops Stortford, south of Whittington Way (closely adjacent to Southern Park itself). One assume that like others in Herts CC, who dump excess housing on rural East Herts) removing green spaces which are essential for fresh air and exercise.
4. **Support protest against the BIS 5** and related proposals by East Herts Council. (for 750 houses and other large development in scenic valley of Stort)
5. That such points can be addressed at the Public meeting at 7pm on 18th July 2018 at the St Barnabas Centre regarding the Thorley Parish Council petition and the Residents Association OTTRA "Hands off Thorley".

6..Please note that one member of staff of Herts county council supports @saveruralbaldock). sot one of the well-paid Herts staff is thinking "Enough is enough" ; at last.

7..Realise that most people in the whole of our area are very bitter after five decades of such careless "planning" ie, excess dumping of thousands of poor quality tightly packed houses (without necessary associated paths, buses or facilities) . This involved massive destruction of greenspaces; giving "developers" easy profits. It was done and continues to be done to **undemocratically** destroy a once pleasant rural market town and surroundings in Herts and Essex. It is not for "Airport Related Housing" (a myth concocted by greedy builders).

8 Consider how to remedy the fact that despite Bishop's Stortford being the town closes to Stansted Airport there have been no necessary supportive financial grants given by Airport nor Councils nor the EU

Many such were needed to create new extra infrastructure and public **transport**. The town is due to become fully gridlocked after all of Bishop's Stortford North has been built. Bus services are inadequate for a town so close to an important airport. [Every possible green space has now been grabbed for housing;].

Old Essex rail routes have not yet been re-opened even though after **Takeley and Little Canfield Essex massive housing estates** are finished there will be no places left on trains for our traditional BS to London commuters (already battling with European tourists)

9. **Study the "democracy" of your methods**. So-called "democratic opinions and choices" were presented to residents in **time-limited, hard-to-understand, unworkable on-line methods**, (including all those posted to people by building companies) and it was **then assumed that non votes meant agreement** with what the Council proposed to be plonked onto the green landscape. The whole of Bishop's Stortford has already voted against this "southern" scheme in the recent past.

10. Consider more carefully the **Revised Recommendations** whereby E Herts Council is seeking to change the boundaries of Thorley constituent areas in order to push it into the "town", in order to **place farmland and Southern country Park under town control and hence become able to force "Council's" unwanted development onto all greenspaces**

11. Remember that previous staff in Councils permitted the destruction of both of BS' two hospitals to gain housing cash.

12. Ask:- a) **Why don't Hert Councils oblige Essex spend on their own schools and other infrastructure?** and b) why Herts weirdly wishes to spend on **new schools to be built largely for the benefit of Essex pupils**, despite there being few methods of getting into BS areas from Takeley, etc, during "rush-hours" (whilst **we residents will be unable to exit/escape via our small roads**).

13. For "**Green Space Action**" you also need to consider :- **Conservation and Leisure/Tourism:-**

East Herts' un-democratically proposed breaching of the southern Green Belt by a development of 750 houses and other buildings between Whittington Way and the bypass would affect the long distance walking route:-

A branch of the **Hertfordshire Way Route** to access **the Stort Navigation and the Thorley Wash Nature Reserve (a Site of Special Scientific Interest)**.

14. **Extend eastwards the Southern country Park Bishop's Stortford** as part of your "**GREEN SPACE ACTION PLAN**" and **do not build on Green Belt**.

15. Remember that:- the Southern border at Green Belt edge may be an important **visual marker for aircraft navigation approaching Stansted**. This could be a safety consideration for the town.

Many thanks for your consideration of this message. From Resident of 43 years

John Williams

From:
Sent: 14 August 2018 08:30
To: John Williams
Subject: Re: Addendum to 2nd stage consultation

Thank you for your email. I did complete an addendum form that I collected, after having to make a serious request for the leaflets as no-one seems to know where they might be and were not out on display to just 'pick up' in the library. So I have returned this form but to be honest I was not clear as to the 'preferred' option that Thorley Parish Council was putting forward so I probably negated my options! Only should have ticked one option? I know that the person who said she had received it by email said that she was confused and as the maps (as in all the cases) were not clear enough and the timescale required to complete it etc etc, made it impossible to really come up with an informed choice and/or putting their views forward. It also seems strange to me that there appear to be a number of databases floating around for even this one consultation and depending on whether one is on one database you might get some up-to-date information. I was also unable to forward to anyone who had asked for any further information on the consultation - well in time to actually get their comments.

However, back to Thorley Parish Council options - I assume that they would be happier with any of the options and personally I would go along with them actually retaining existing boundaries with very small amendments to ensure that they remain in place and would be so for the foreseeable future. They are a strong community and any reduction in size, in wards, councillors and splitting of, would, in my view, be unforgivable since historically Bishop's Stortford is as it is because of Thorley. No evidence has been put forward by BS Town Council regarding its desire to extend Bishops Stortford Town Council boundaries and in effect undermining the Thorley Parish Council's strong community (as hinted at during the public meeting). To be taking land on the premise that there is an indication that it would not be in keeping with Thorley or that Southern Country Park is not deemed to be fit to be looked after by East Herts DC and the friends of the park as currently and that BS Town Council would somehow enhance this? Sorry not sure that any reference to this was made in any of the leaflets so have not a clue as to why the Town Council sees this area as belonging to its remit as though it has not already taken too much of Thorley in the past.

I know from my phone call with John Wylie (councillor South Ward) that he was unable to identify where South Ward was, mixing Thorley Community Hall as being part of South Ward when it isn't. South Ward was - in his words - stand in front of Sainsburys (Thorley Park) and everything to the left is South Ward. Didn't help me when I was trying to identify the detailed exact boundary lines. He also didn't know, and appeared disinterested with the fact that OTTRA existed. He was unaware of the EHDC e-petition process or what it was.

My final comment is that there are massive changes going on in Bishop's Stortford, with people having to manage their lives around some of these. Many are not seeing the changes of any benefit to their lives and are obviously concerned when some of the rural communities are being seen as not having any say in their future communities. Personally I feel that there should be a serious shake up of the Town Council - the renaming of Wards so that they actually reflect their communities with the finances being shared around those communities. The large development to the North of Bishop's Stortford may require some serious innovative and imaginative work to ensure that they do become integrated in the town and its future.

I could comment on my reaction to attending the full EHDC meeting earlier in the year. That I was not even aware that there was a EHDC mayor - that notification of prayers before the meeting was not made

clear as to how people who did not want to take part could do so without feeling uncomfortable. The comment regarding the fact that no fire/safety information was made for members of the public was made - oh just follow the rush of councillors in the direction that they were running - did not lead me to believe that business was carried out in a professional and all welcoming manner with an equal representation of their area in terms of gender and ethnicity at least.

You asked for my views and I know that mine are not of a few. The decisions that councillors make in October should be based on real evidence rather than convenience for future planning as opposed to taking into account the feelings of a very small but very strong community ie Thorley. Thorley Parish Council's views should be equally recognised rather than negative comments regarding its size - which again is only due to its rural aspect and the fact that as new development has taken place, the Town Council has decided that the boundary should change to, again in my view, the detriment of the Thorley Parish Council.

I would like to know the dates of ANY meetings where any of these proposals are discussed/debated are - for the public to attend. Also any internal minutes of meetings where any of these discussion have happened - that are available to the public or as a freedom of information request.

Many thanks for putting on the public meeting which we realise was a last minute affair even though a couple of the councillors appeared not to have fully understood that they should have just answered the public and listened to their concerns rather than trying to almost appearing to say that it was a done thing and it would happen irrespective of public opinion. Minutes/notes of that meeting would also be appreciated along with the Q&A.

Williams John

From:
Sent: 12 July 2018 12:05
To: Legal & Democratic Services - Electors
Cc:
Subject: Community Governance review second stage Bishop's Stortford

Dear Sirs,

With regards to the above review, I wish to raise a number of concerns with the details on leaflet circulated.

It is in the way the facts are presented, namely not revealing the entire picture of the impact that the proposals will have, if they are confirmed.

a) It states that Central ward is the highest and that Silverleys is the lowest, and that the proposals will help to even out these imbalances. There is no recognition of the developments on the NW side of the town currently being built, which will come under both Silverleys and Meads wards in the future, this will again create an imbalance on these figures. Is this not futile not to wait until the residents have taken up these new houses?

b) My main objection is that there is no mention in the script of the extension of South ward into Thorley parish, which is still part of an on going disputed planning appeal which was a subject of a previous governance review earlier this year. Yet it appears on the map included in the leaflet. The proposed amended southerly border of South ward incorporates almost a third of the current Thorley Parish. This is still subject to a further review relating to both developments on Green Belt and over development with in a Village Status 3 area and should not have been included in this as the map states that these are the existing town council ward boundaries within Bishop's Stortford which is clearly not the case.

This is nothing more than miss information to deceive local people in to believing that this extension of the South Ward has already been agreed!

We know that the Bishop's Stortford Town Council's and East Herts Council's their main objective is for the transfer of the green belt area between south of Whittington Way and St James Way to be able to push through additional developments, once they had control of this area.

As long as that area is still designated Green Belt and the criteria for no developments within Village status 3 as Thorley Parish is, this should not be stated as a current boundary with in this consultation document.

I am extremely concerned by the use of such underhand and misleading tactics by the local council to try and force through their proposals which are solely driven by the developers to enhance their status.

Please ensure that there is a notification published to effect that information contained in this publication is inaccurate and that fresh information is circulated showing the actual boundaries and impact on the Bishop's Stortford area.

The date of Friday July 27th for submissions to be received should now be deferred until end of September 2018, to enable the correction to this document to be made public.

Please confirm by return that you are receipt of this email and that action is being taken.

Yours faithfully

Community Governance Review of Bishop's Stortford Town Council - Second stage consultation responses

No.	Channel	Postcode	Age range	Connection	St Michael's Mead - Do you agree that the parish boundary between Bishop's Stortford and Thorley should be changed so that all of St Michael's Mead, which is currently split between the two parishes, is included in the Bishop's Stortford Town Council area? (& comments/reasons)	Land south of Whittington Way - Do you agree that the parish boundary between Bishop's Stortford and Thorley should be changed so that all of the area of proposed housing development south of Whittington Way (Bishops Stortford South), which is currently split between the two parishes, is included in the Bishop's Stortford Town Council area? (& comments/reasons)	Thorley Street, Pig Lane and Twyford Bury Lane areas - Do you agree that the Thorley Street, Pig Lane and Twyford Bury Lane areas should remain part of Thorley Parish? (& comments/reasons)	Rectory Close - Do you agree that the parish boundary between Bishop's Stortford and Thorley should be changed so that all properties in Rectory Close, which is currently split between the two parishes, are included in Thorley Parish? (& comments/reasons)	Park View Cottages - Do you agree that the parish boundary between Bishop's Stortford and Thorley should be changed so that numbers 6 to 9 Park View Cottages, which are currently within Bishop's Stortford, are included in Thorley Parish? (& comments/reasons)
1 & 126	Webform & webform 2	CM23 4BG	65-75	Local resident	No There is no demonstrated advantage to the residents which would merit this change. Of all the St Michael's Mead residents I have consulted, none has declared a preference to change parishes. There is no vehicular access into St M.M from BS parish, all access is from Thorley.	No The erroneously named B.Stortford South is the land known as Thorley Valleys, this land is encompassed by Thorley village and is part of Thorley village. At present Bishops Stortford boundary incurs only a few metres from Whittington Way and Obrey Way into Thorley parish and comprises less than 10% of the tract of land. If the future development should go ahead, the present proposals show no housing in the B.Stortford zones therefore there will be no split. It would be more logical for the BS fringe area be incorporated into Thorley parish, or left as it is.	Yes No valid reasons within the terms of reference have been demonstrated to warrant a transfer of this to B.Stortford	No Change for the sake of change shows no demonstrable advantage to the residents of either ward. Whilst it would be preferable and logical all to be in one parish, the reason the irregularity exists is because EHDC by ignoring the public opinion in the last review made it so, the fact that EHDC wish to change it back, demonstrates that they made a mistake the last time, yet they think they are making correct decisions this time.	No No demonstrated advantages to the residents for community, service, or any other terms of reference reasons.
2	Webform	CM23 4GS	50-64	Local resident	No If you remove the current household in the parish boundary there will be less dissent against new developments. I am against any further development in Thorley.	No We live on St Michael's Mead and currently enjoy the beautiful semi rural environment of Thorley Parish. I am completely against the proposal to change the boundaries as I feel it is a precursor to removing the green belt area on Whittington way. At the moment the area in question is protected as a group 3 village and I believe for the future wellbeing of residents to both Thorley parish and Bishop's Stortford town we should protect our beautiful countryside.	Yes They are rural areas and as such have different issues to the town.	No	No
3	Webform	CM23 4EF	50-64	Local resident	Yes All residents in a defined area should be within the same Parish	Yes Bishops Stortford Town Council is better placed to represent the residents of Bishop's Stortford This new development will have a major impact on the Town and will look to the Town as their local centre, they will not look towards the parish of Thorley as a provider of services	Yes Thorley parish should be preserved	Yes Seems sensible	Yes Seems sensible as they probably class themselves as Thorley parish
4	Webform	CM23 4JT	50-64	Local resident	Yes Sensible demographic decision	No If this land is taken out of Thorley Parish there is far less resistance to the proposed development on this land. The timing of these changes appears very suspicious with a view to smoothing the planning application.	Yes Absolutely sensible. Many of these residents have a very strong connection with Thorley Parish and it is very worrying that the Town Council thought it would make sense to move them across to Bishops Stortford.	Yes Again just common sense	Yes Again just common sense

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5 & 115	Webform & e-mail	CM23 3JD	50-64	Other - former Thorley resident and Parish Councillor	No There is no direct road link between St Michael's Mead and Bishops Stortford. The Thorley Domesday Lane is in St Michael's Mead	No Whittington Way forms a boundary between Bishops Stortford and Thorley. The new houses could easily remain in Thorley. Bishops Stortford Town Council has presumed that the new people (who have yet to take up residents will look to Bishops Stortford. I see no reason why they cant look towards Thorley.	Yes It was a major error of the Bishops Stortford Town Council to seek to take these areas in the first place.	Yes It rights a wrong imposed by a previous boundary review.	Yes There was no reason why they were taken.
6	Webform	CM23 3NN	35-49	Local resident	No Maintain identity and viability of Thorley Parish	No The area if developed should be considered part of Thorley to maintain the identity of that area	Yes No reason given for them to move	No No reason for them to move	Don't know
7	Webform	CM23 4HT	50-64	Local resident	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Don't know
8	Webform	CM23 4DP	75+	Local resident	No	No You only want to change it to get around planning new houses, green belt means nothing if you can change the law and build on it.	Yes Why change it?	Yes	Yes

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9	Webform	CM23 3EJ	35-49	Local resident	No The lack of involvement from residents of St. Michael's Mead is proof that St. Michael's Mead does not wish to engage with the Town Council and has no affinity with it. Without a strong reason to move the boundary the boundary should be left as is.	No The land is rural village residents needs are best served by that of a village council, that is Thorley parish council. The council's argument that "in the future* the land might not be rural is getting ahead of itself, the boundary should be looked at *after* or *when* the area changes, not before as the interests of the residents would not be best served by a town council looking after a rural area.	Yes These residents are clearly rural and require a council that can understand a rural area.	Yes These residents are clearly rural and require a council that can understand a rural area.	Yes These residents are clearly rural and require a council that can understand a rural area.
10	Webform	CM22 7PA	35-49	Local resident	Yes To unite the entire estate to belong to BS town council but in return for Thorley Parish Council to acquire those areas lost previously.	No Not sure of any benefit by extending boundary so land here is governed by BS Town Council other than development purposes. Would this not also cause a difficult boundary split.	Yes We live in this area.	Yes Increased unity so houses within the same area are not split between Thorley Parish and BS town council.	Yes Increased unity so houses within the same area are not split between Thorley Parish and BS town council.
11	Webform	CM23 4BH	75+	Local resident	Yes Because St Michael's Mead is a much later addition to the area and the residents of the properties in question are town-orientated and have no connection with the Thorley residents.	Don't know This is a loaded question as it assumes that the development WILL take place. Should the land be removed from the Green Belt and used for the proposed development it makes little sense to retain it in the Parish of Thorley as it would destroy its character completely. If, however, development is refused it should remain as Green Belt and in the Parish of Thorley where it will be protected from the avarice of Bishop's Stortford Town Council and their friends, the Developers!	Yes All these residents are 'Thorleyites' with active interests in maintaining Thorley Parish	Yes Common sense!	Yes Again, historically they are part of Thorley, not Bishops Stortford and, being listed, are much more appropriately included with Thorley Street as part of the parish of Thorley.
12	Webform	CM23 4DH	75+	Local resident	No There is nothing in the terms of reference that demonstrates any benefits to the residents of either parish to warrant this change.	No There is nothing in the terms of reference that demonstrates any benefits to the residents of either parish to warrant this change.	Yes There is nothing in the terms of reference that demonstrates any detriment to the residents by remaining in Thorley Parish	Yes The terms of reference do not demonstrate that there is any advantage to the residents of Church Lane & Rectory Close to remain in Bishops Stortford.	Yes The terms of reference show that there would be advantage to the residents to be included in Thorley Parish
13	Webform	CM23 4AS	35-49	Local resident	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
14	Webform	CM22 7PA	65-75	Local resident	Yes Makes sense for all of St Michael's mead to be incorporated into Bishops Stortford	No There is no obvious reason for this to happen, Thorley is an active community and an increase in its number would be welcomed, the town council do not make a justified argument for change.	Yes As a resident of Pig Lane I strongly feel part of Thorley parish	Yes It makes total sense	Yes There again it makes total sense to tidy that part of the boundary
15	Webform	CM23 4JF	50-64	Local resident	No All to do with development of green belt land	No This is all to do with development on green belt land	Yes Ancient boundaries should be preserved.	Yes Because its in Thorley!!!!	Yes
16 & 125	Webform & webform 2	CM23 4DG	35-49	Local resident	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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17 & 106	Webform & Addendum	CM23 4UP	50-64	Local resident	Yes I agree with the logic that the residents of St Michael's Mead should fall under a single local authority. However, I strongly believe that the Southern Country Park (SCP) which acts as a green buffer between the residential areas of Thorley Park and St Michael's Mead should remain within the Parish of Thorley together with the older properties in Thorley Lane that border it. When the bypass was built it was Thorley Parish that fought hard for this green space and for the footbridge linking it with Thorley village. The same applies to the green wedge to the east of Church Lane and the Thorley cricket ground.	No I don't believe that this proposal should be taken forward until there is certainty regarding the status of this field which is an ancient and important part of Thorley Parish. If it does proceed then perhaps it would be up to the new residents to decide its future.	Yes The first consultation has highlighted strong local support from these areas for remaining part of Thorley Parish.	Yes It makes sense to have all properties under a single parish.	Yes I support on the basis that the local residents want this to happen.
18	Webform	CM23 4AZ	65-75	Local resident	No I have read the papers provided by yourselves and can see no valid or sensible reason for changing something which works perfectly well at the moment to something which seems to be being proposed simply for tidiness in someone's mind. We are perfectly happy in Thorley and do not feel we will be any happier in The Town. Of course you will get more money if we are forcibly moved into The Town and we will be the people who have no choice but to pay up - hopefully this is not a reason for the move.	No You have not provided any reasons as to why it would be better to do this land grab. Leave the land in Thorley - the idea that those who live there will feel more loyal towards the Town than Thorley is quite frankly stupid.	Don't know I have no views on this area and feel it should be left to those residents there to decide what they what like to see happen	Don't know	
19	Webform	CM23 4AD	50-64	Local resident	No That it will completely change our way of life and have a devastating effect on our community, quiet apart from changing our beautiful landscape.	No This will completely stop the residents of this parish having a say in keeping our way of life. We value our parish and our opinions will be rode roughshod over.	Yes We do want this to remain. This is what encompasses the beauty of this parish.	No It should remain as it stands. The councilors that this parish currently has will fight to keep what all residents hold dear.	No It should remain as it stands. The councilors that this parish currently has will fight to keep what all residents hold dear.
20	Webform	CM23 4EU	50-64	Local resident	No I do not believe in the proposed changes as they will ultimately allow the developers in and our green belt (which is meant to be protected) will be built on.	No This will give rise to being controlled by a majority that does not value the individual way of life within this parish.	Yes We wish the parish to remain as it stands and not be dictated to by EHC.	No The local residents will not be supported by the amount of councilors that it currently has.	No The local residents will not be supported by the amount of councilors that it currently has.
21	Webform	CM23 4AD	75+	Local resident	No This will give too much power to the local council and government.	No This will totally destroy our rural way of life which we so hold dear.	Yes Our seven councilors fight to withhold the beautiful area and way of life.	No Any change to these boundaries will affect the number of councilors and allow change (that we do not want) to take place.	No Any change to these boundaries will affect the number of councilors and allow change (that we do not want) to take place.
22	Webform	CM23 2UG	65-75	Local resident	No I do not agree as this would allow too much power to move to the town council and completely devastate our rural way of life and the beauty of England's countryside.	No I do not agree as this would allow too much power to move to the town council and completely devastate our rural way of life and the beauty of England's countryside.	Yes The residents would not benefit from a change from the current situation and should be protected at all costs. We need to be heard.	No The residents would not benefit from a change from the current situation and should be protected at all costs.	No The residents would not benefit from a change from the current situation and should be protected at all costs.

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23	Webform	CM23 4AD	16-17	Local resident	No I do not agree as this would allow too much power to move to the town council.	No I do not agree as this would allow too much power to move to the town council.	Yes The residents would not benefit from a change from the current situation and should be protected at all costs. We need to be heard. That is the whole point of having our say.	No The residents would not benefit from a change from the current situation and should be protected as this affects us after all as we live here.	No The residents would not benefit from a change from the current situation and should be protected as this affects us after all as we live here.
24	Webform	CM23 4EZ	35-49	Local resident	Yes I think the whole parish (Thorley) should be scrapped and either incorporated into Bishop's Stortford or split between all the neighbouring parishes.	Yes I think the whole parish (Thorley) should be scrapped and either incorporated into Bishop's Stortford (and turned into one of its ward) or split between all the neighbouring parishes.	No	No	No I think the whole parish (Thorley) should be scrapped and either incorporated into Bishop's Stortford (and turned into one of its ward) or split between all the neighbouring parishes.
25	Webform	CM23 3EX	50-64	Local resident	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
26	Webform	CM23 3HB	26-34	Local resident	Don't know	Don't know	Don't know	Don't know	Don't know
27	Webform	CM23 3JS	65-75	Local resident	Yes It makes sense	No It is a field, if it becomes housing then maybe, but then who would seriously want to live under the flight path to a growing airport?	Yes	Yes	Yes The old boundary, presumably as a result of a similar review, was clearly a mistake?
28	Webform	CM22 7PA	35-49	Local resident	Yes	No This is just for the council to have full control of the land to speed up the development process which will hugely affect the Thorley Parish and its residents. We disagree with the development. It will ruin an already over populated town with no infrastructure to support the current housing even before Stortford North. This is a ridiculous decision.	Yes This must stay the way it is. The residents of Thorley must have a separate parish council to oppose the Stortford South development. This is just a way of silencing Thorley residents to proceed with Stortford South with no opposition.	Yes	Yes
29	Webform	CM22 7PA	35-49	Local resident	Don't know	No The idea is ridiculous. Roads like pig lane are a rat run as it is, loading the roads further is crazy, extra housing into an area that is being turned from a beautiful town to a mini harlow is disgraceful and nothing more than a money making scheme. The whole town is becoming overdeveloped and any further developments will destroy the town.	Yes Of course it should remain and stay part of the already established community. But that should apply for whittington way so that these roads do not get any further developed and cause further congestion to these rat runs.	Don't know	Don't know
30	Webform	CM23 4DL	75+	Local resident	Yes This part of the proposal makes sense	No I believe that the only reason for the council's wish for this to happen is purely financial.	No The residents from this area prefer to remain in the Thorley Parish	Yes This is common sense	Yes Common sense
31	Webform	CM23 4IX	50-64	Local resident	No No tangible benefit for residents.	No No tangible benefit to residents.	Yes	Yes	Yes

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32	Webform	S612 9TF	18-25	Local resident	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
33	Webform	CM23 2NN	18-25	Other - Local resident & local Councillor	Yes	Yes	Don't know	Don't know	Don't know
34	Webform	CM23 4AZ	35-49	Local resident	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
35	Webform	CM23 4AZ	65-75	Local resident	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
36	Webform	CM22 7PA	75+	Local resident	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
37	Webform	CM23 4BG	35-49	Local resident	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Don't know
38	Webform	CM23 4GS	35-49	Local resident	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

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39	Webform	CM22 7PA	65-75	Local resident	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
					As long as the St. Michael's Mead are happy with this decision.	The reasons given do not make sense and are purely based on an opinion.	I am very happy living in Thorley Parish as I have been doing so for 41 years.	This should always have been in the Parish	These also should have been in the village
40 & 130	Webform & webform 2	CM23 4GZ	35-49	Local resident	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
					I am happy with the status quo and view this change as an attempt to railroad the community into accepting the development of Bishop's Stortford South. I wish to retain the area as a beautiful rural community, and not to be swallowed up as another suburb of a sprawling town. There is far too much unsustainable and ill-thought out development in the town, which is destroying its historic, rural character. The infrastructure cannot cope with any further development.	I am happy with the status quo and view this change as an attempt to railroad the community into accepting the development of Bishop's Stortford South. I wish to retain the area as a beautiful rural community, and not to be swallowed up as another suburb of a sprawling town. There is far too much unsustainable and ill-thought out development in the town, which is destroying its historic, rural character. The infrastructure cannot cope with any further development.	There is no compelling evidence to support a change here: these are rural areas suited to the remainder of the Thorley Parish.	Yes	
41	Webform	CM23 3PD	65-75	Other - Town & District Councillor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
42	Webform	CM23 4GZ	35-49	Local resident	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
					We bought our house overlooking the Southern country park, because it felt like we were living in a rural environment rather than a sprawling town. Whilst we appreciate that the amenities of the town are quite close by, we chose to be right on the edge of them for the quieter rural experience and would therefore prefer to stay in the Thorley parish where our votes will be implemented by like-minded people.	I think anyone moving into houses eventually built on that site will want to be part of an area represented by a rural ward and councillors mindful of rural community	We don't obviously live there so can only give an opinion based on how we would feel if we did, but we think they would want to be part of a rural community and council ward	We don't obviously live there so can only give an opinion based on how we would feel if we did, but we think they would want to be part of a rural community and council ward	We don't obviously live there so can only give an opinion based on how we would feel if we did, but we think they would want to be part of a rural community and council ward
43 & 124	Webform & webform 2	CM23 3IS	65-75	Other - Chairman of Scout Group and Parish Councillor (Form 2) Local resident	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
					It does not provide a logical boundary	The main reason for BSTC wanting this change is to facilitate the development proposed in the District Plan. Leaving area in TPC hands could cause problems in respect of those proposals.	There is no reason to move them.	The Close should never have been split in the first place	Similar to comment re Rectory Close

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44	Webform	CM23 4GG	65-75	Local resident	No	Yes	Yes	Don't know	
45	Webform	CM23 4GS	35-49	Local resident	No	No	Yes	Yes	
46 & 112	Paper form & Addendum	CM23 4GR	50-64	Local resident	No	No	Yes	Yes	
47	Paper form	CM23 5JJ	65-75	Local resident	No	No	Yes	Yes	
48	Paper form	CM23 4IY		Local resident	No	No	Yes	Don't know	Need local identity
49	Paper form	CM23 5JJ	65-75	Local resident	No	No	Yes	Yes	Stop interfering and do something useful!
50	Paper form	CM23 4GS		Local resident	No	No	Yes	Yes	Seems logical to me.
51 & 107	Paper form & Addendum	CM23 4GZ	35-49	Local resident	No	No	Yes	No	Happy as it is.
52	Paper form			Local resident	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	I don't know for certain but if I lived there, I'd want councillors from a rural parish.
53	Paper form	CM23 3EJ		Local resident	No	No	Yes	Yes	But not sure all similar placed properties assessed as also to be included.
54 & 98	Paper form & Addendum	CM23 4GG	65-75	Local resident					
55 & 96	Paper form & Addendum	CM23 3HE	65-75	Local resident	No	No	Yes	Yes	It would make sense to become part of Thorley Parish.

Community Governance Review of Bishop's Stortford Town Council - Second stage consultation responses

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56	Paper form	CM23 4LG	75+	Local resident	Yes Most residents of this built-up area identify themselves with Bishop's Stortford town.	No The area has a sense of identity as Thorley Village, with very ancient boundaries. These proposals split the parish in two and 'steal' countryside.	Yes These areas have much in common with Thorley Parish. The residents identify themselves with Thorley Parish, and always have done.	Yes The whole of Rectory Close should be together, as part of Thorley Village and Thorley Parish.	Yes This area is geographically part of 'Thorley'. The residents mostly identify themselves with Thorley Parish.
57 & 94	Paper form & Addendum	CM23 2PP		Local resident	Yes All St Michael's Mead in one parish	Yes Bishop's Stortford School due to be relocated there.	Yes		Yes
58	Paper form	CM23 3EN		Local resident	No	No	Yes		
59	Paper form	CM23 4BL		Local resident	Yes	No	Yes	Most practical arrangement	Yes
60	Paper form	CM23 4AW		Other - Local resident and retired nurse	No Existing boundary necessary to retain green belt as is	No	Yes		No
61	Paper form	CM23 4AW		Local resident & Employee	No Parish boundary	No Parish boundary	Yes	Parish boundary	No Parish boundary
62 & 108	Paper form & Addendum	CM23 4AS	65-75	Local resident	No There is equally compelling argument for extending Thorley Parish boundary if we are 'tidying up' boundaries, which includes the whole of St Michael's Mead (map attached showing boundary running westwards along green area just south of Great Hadham Road, Ellenborough Close, Greenhill Park, Honeybourne, Kent Crescent, Norfolk Way and Lower Park Crescent; then on the north side of Thorley Hill to London Road; then northwards along London Road to the river; then along the river (east of Twyford Road) to the existing boundary).	No This land is not 'No Man's Land', it is the heart of rural Thorley - not Bishop's Stortford.	Yes	Yes of course, historically, and for Thorley Parish to remain viable.	Yes For the reasons given previously - 'tidying up'.
63	Paper form	CM23 4AS		Local resident	Don't know	No Changing boundary just to allow building is not right.	Yes	No reason to change	Yes Should have been done before it's silly
64	Paper form	CM23 4AW		Local resident	No	No	No		No
65	Paper form	CM23 4AW		Local resident	No	No	No		No
66	Paper form	CM23 4AW		Local resident	No	No	Yes		No
67 & 97	Paper form & Addendum	CM23 4DL	65-75	Local resident	No Residents have not requested the change. Council seems to force its wishes on the people.	No Do not pre-judge what the future may or may not be.	Yes	The area did not request a change. Leave alone.	Don't know The owners of properties in Rectory Close should be consulted on their wishes.
68	Paper form	CM23 4ED		Local resident	Yes	No	Yes		Yes

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69	Paper form	CM23 4ED	50-64	Local resident	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
70 & 101	Paper form & Addendum	CM23 4JT	65-75	Local resident	Don't know	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
					Removing housing from the Thorley Parish means that there are fewer voters and the Parish becomes less viable.	At present boundary is partly in this field. To be viable Thorley Parish needs to retain a larger number of voters.			
71	Paper form	CM23 4DL		Local resident	No	No	Yes	Appears logical	As above
72	Paper form	CM23 4AB	75+	Local resident	No	No	Yes		Yes
73	Paper form	CM23 3HB	65-75	Local resident	No	No	Yes		Yes
74	Paper form	CM23 4JB		Local resident	Possible	No	Yes	Common sense	Common sense
					Seems reasonable but why when estate built was this not seen and dealt with before approval - Council at fault?	No need to use recently built by-pass as border. Use Whittington Way/Obrey Way/Thorley Lane East etc. All this land should be part of Thorley Parish, not given to Bishop's Stortford Town Council.	As Pig Lane etc is staying with Thorley Parish it makes even more sense the boundary goes up Whittington Way (see above)	Common sense	
75 & 105	Paper form & Addendum	CM23 4JT		Local resident	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
					Moving the boundary will have a detrimental effect on the whole area.	We do not need any more houses in Stortford, this will give traffic & health problems.			
76	Paper form	CM23 4JT	50-64	Local resident	No	No	Yes	No	No
						By changing the boundary will make it even easier for local authority to ignore the wishes of the people, than it is now!	By keeping these areas in the Thorley Parish will ensure that the Parish has a voice of strength.	By keeping these areas in the Thorley Parish will ensure that the Parish has a voice of strength.	By keeping these areas in the Thorley Parish will ensure that the Parish has a voice of strength.
77	Paper form	CM23 4JT	65-75	Local resident	No	No	Yes	No	No
					Because it gives license to Bishop's Stortford Town Council to get bigger & bigger & take decisions on which the people of these communities should be taking.	Because it gives license to Bishop's Stortford Town Council to get bigger & bigger & take decisions on which the people of these communities should be taking.	Because it gives license to Bishop's Stortford Town Council to get bigger & bigger & take decisions on which the people of these communities should be taking.	Because it gives license to Bishop's Stortford Town Council to get bigger & bigger & take decisions on which the people of these communities should be taking.	Because it gives license to Bishop's Stortford Town Council to get bigger & bigger & take decisions on which the people of these communities should be taking.
78	Paper form	CM23 4JT	50-64	Local resident	No	No	Don't know	Don't know	Don't know
					I don't want the land to be built on	I don't want the land built on.	I don't want the land built on.	I don't want the land to be built on	I don't want the land built on

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79	Paper form	CM23 3EP		Local resident	Don't know	No	Yes	Yes	Don't know
80	Paper form	CM23 3EP		Local resident	Don't know	No	Yes	Yes	Don't know
81	Paper form	CM23 4JH		Local resident	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
82	Paper form	CM23 4LF	50-64	Local resident	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
83	Paper form	CM23 4BE	65-75	Local resident	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
84	Paper form	CM23 4BE		Local resident	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
85	Paper form	CM23 4BL		Local resident	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
86	Paper form	CM23 4BL	50-64	Local resident	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
87	Paper form	CM23 4BL	35-49	Local resident	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
88	Paper form	CM23 4BL	65-75	Local resident	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
89 & 90	Paper form & Addendum	CM23 4BG	65-75	Local resident	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
91 & 112	Home made form & Addendum	CM23 4AE	35-49	Local resident	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
92	Addendum	CM23 3FN		Local resident					

Community Governance Review of Bishop's Stortford Town Council - Second stage consultation responses

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93	Addendum	CM23 4AZ	50-64	Local resident					
95	Addendum	CM23 4AZ	65-75	Local resident					
99	Addendum	CM23 4JT		Local resident					
100	Addendum	CM23 3EJ		Local resident					
102	Addendum			Local resident					
103	Addendum	CM23 4AZ	35-49	Local resident					
104	Addendum	CM23 4FJ	75+	Local resident					
109	Addendum	CM23 4AZ	75+	Local resident					
110	Addendum	CM23 3HB	65-75	Local resident					
111	Addendum	CM23 4AZ		Not stated					
113	Home made form	CM23 3HD	65-75	Local resident	No Put all of St Michael's Mead into Thorley.	No There was no valid, time-lengthened, use-able non on-line democratic consultation. Plus all Bishop's Stortford voted against it previously.	Yes	Yes	Yes
114	Home made form	CM23 2JB	75+	Former local resident	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

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116 & 134	E-mails x 2	CM23 4AT	50-64	Local resident	No	I am strongly opposed to the proposed border changes to the land south of Whittington Way. The only reason given as 'evidence' that the border should change is that future residents on the site (if planning permission is agreed in the future) are likely to feel more part of the Bishops Stortford community than Thorley. How this can be suggested as evidence I have no idea. We currently have St Michael's Mead residents as part of Thorley - I have many friends and family living in St Michael's Mead and they are very happy to be part of Thorley. Why would new residents on the land south of Whittington Way not feel part of Thorley too. The council has not provided compelling evidence here for this border change to go ahead. If anything, this simply smacks of land-grabbing by the Town Council. In the first iteration of the review, the council made suggestions to reduce Thorley Parish to a ridiculously small electorate. At the public meeting on the 18th July, Councillor John Wiley used the language "we compromised in giving you back Thorley Street, Pig Lane and Twyford Bury Lane". They should never have been suggested in the first place, but worse than this, the use of the word "compromise" confirms that the intention was always to 'take land away'. One outcome of the review could have been to leave things as they are, so why use the language "compromise" which suggests an underlying criteria. I am also reliably informed that the guidance for the review process confirms that a boundary review shouldn't be conducted in anticipation of development. I am therefore against this proposed border change to the land south of Whittington Way and because the review guidance hasn't been adhered to here the land should be retained within the Thorley			

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117 & 133	E-mails x 2	CM23 4AT		Local resident	No	I oppose the border changes to land south of Whittington Way. The Town Council have provided no compelling evidence as to why this border change should take place. They seem to be relying on a statement that future residents of the site (if planning permission is agreed) are more likely to feel part of the Bishops Stortford community. This is a very flimsy statement with no factual basis - Thorley parish is just as happy to make the statement that future residents will feel part of Thorley. On this basis, I oppose this border change and strongly request that the land to the south of Whittington Way remains part of Thorley Village.			
118	Addendum	CM23 4AZ	65-75	Local resident					
119	Webform	CM23 4GF	35-49	Local resident	No		Yes	Don't know	Don't know

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120	Webform	CM23 4GS	35-49	Local resident	No We currently have a good local system that works well and I am very happy with the services and being able to discuss matters with those that represent me within the parish. Also the fact that St Michael's Mead has no direct vehicle access in the direction of town i.e. into Thorley (which was a specific design feature demonstrates that it was never intended to become part of Bishop's Stortford Town Council - by its very design it has been intentionally separated. Furthermore we are a rural area with farmers fields and countryside much closer than we are to the urban centre of town and as such we to in a parish that represents rural issues.	No The development has not been approved yet so it is a hypothetical question that should only ever be asked in the event that full agreement is given for this development.	No This is rural area and should therefore be treated as such and not classed as urban ie within Bishops Stortford	No There is no need for change	No There is no need for change
121	Webform	CM23 7PA	65-75	Local resident	Don't know Views expressed at the second consultation public meeting on 18th July at St. Barnabas Hall by St Michaels Mead residents were mixed. I believe that any changes should reflect the majority views of these residents to the Consultation	No This recommendation clearly relates to East Herts District Plan allocations and Countryside Development's proposals for the development of around 750 houses and associated employment, commercial and schools areas known as Bishops Stortford South. It is also noted that this change is made exclusively by reference to the boundary of the new development since it is suggested that existing dwellings on the west of Thorley Street but closely abutting the east of the site should remain in Thorley Parish. The Council's justification advanced for taking this area into Bishop's Stortford is twofold: that electorate forecasts based on planning consents and projections in the District Plan suggest that by February 2023 there will be approximately 500 electors living on the site; and that future residents of this "urban extension" are likely to feel part of the Bishops Stortford community. The first of these justifications has been overtaken by events and decisions made since the CGR second consultation was launched. The Inspector's report on the District Plan was published on 9th July and Revised Appendix B, summarising the housing numbers, envisages that only 200 dwellings will have been completed by 2022. Subsequently, on 25th July, EHC approved a masterplan and hybrid planning application framework for the area which indicates that Countryside will be seeking planning permission for a first phase of only 142 houses within that timescale, all of them being on the part of the site that already falls within the boundary of Bishop's Stortford Town Council. It is now apparent therefore that no new electors will be living in the existing Thorley Parish area before February 2023 as a result of the development. On this second justification, as noted in the first	Yes My reasons are as given for the first consultation - in order to maintain the integrity and sustainability of the existing Thorley Parish - which has now been accepted by the CGR.	Yes This anomaly should be corrected and all properties in Rectory Close should be incorporated into Thorley Parish	Yes This anomaly should be corrected and these properties should be incorporated into Thorley Parish

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122	E-mail	CM23 2AB							

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123	Webform 2	CM23 2BP	50-64	Local resident					
127	Webform 2	CM23 3EJ	50-64	Local resident	No	Over Development. Inadequate Infrastructure which already is unable to cope with the current level of traffic. Preservation of the green belt.			
128	Webform 2	CM23 4AL	35-49	Local resident			Yes		

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129 & 135	Webform 2 & Email	CM23 3LR	35-49	Local resident	Yes Bishops Stortford needs to expand its boundary's because its a fast growing town and Thorley Parish Council will not be big enough to deal with the future plans of the bishop's Stortford south development plus Stortford needs to get it's population statistics up because it's a growing town at the moment it's a false population under the present statistics because of the boundary's and the Essex boundary				
131	O/TTRA newsletter form			No	No Maintain parish jurisdiction. Stop development without the required infrastructure. London Road is busy enough.				
132	E-mail				No I oppose the border changes to land south of Whittington Way because the Town Council have provided no compelling evidence as to why this border change should take place. They seem to be relying on a statement that future residents of the site, if planning permission is agreed, are more likely to feel part of the Bishops Stortford community. This has no factual basis and there is no evidence that future residents would not feel happy being part of Thorley. I oppose this border change and want the land to the south of Whittington Way to remain part of Thorley Village.				

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136	E-mail	CM23 4BL		No comment	No How does anyone know how this development will look when it is complete? BSTC say that it will have more in common with Bishop's Stortford but it is likely to be marketed as a village development thus making it more in common with Thorley. There is no need to rush this decision through now. In my view, this is a decision that should be taken by those in the new homes when they are in full possession of all the facts. There is no need to make a change now that those affected might later regret.	No comment	No comment	No comment	No comment
301 & 304	E-mails x 2	CM23 3EU							
302 & 303	E-mails x 2								
305	E-mail	CM23 4UD							

Community Governance Review of Bishop's Stortford Town Council - Second stage consultation responses

No.	Channel	Postcode	Age range	Connection	St Michael's Mead - Do you agree that the parish boundary between Bishop's Stortford and Thorley should be changed so that all of St Michael's Mead, which is currently split between the two parishes, is included in the Bishop's Stortford Town Council area? (& comments/reasons)	Land south of Whittington Way - Do you agree that the parish boundary between Bishop's Stortford and Thorley should be changed so that all of the area of proposed housing development south of Whittington Way (Bishops Stortford South), which is currently split between the two parishes, is included in the Bishop's Stortford Town Council area? (& comments/reasons)	Thorley Street, Pig Lane and Twyford Bury Lane areas - Do you agree that the Thorley Street, Pig Lane and Twyford Bury Lane areas should remain part of Thorley Parish? (& comments/reasons)	Rectory Close - Do you agree that the parish boundary between Bishop's Stortford and Thorley should be changed so that all properties in Rectory Close, which is currently split between the two parishes, are included in Thorley Parish? (& comments/reasons)	Park View Cottages - Do you agree that the parish boundary between Bishop's Stortford and Thorley should be changed so that numbers 6 to 9 Park View Cottages, which are currently within Bishop's Stortford, are included in Thorley Parish? (& comments/reasons)
501 & 502	E-mail			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
503	Letter								
504	Webform 2	CM23 5PY	26-34	Other - Residents' Association	No				
505	E-mail								

Community Governance Review of Bishop's Stortford Town Council - Second stage consultation responses

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506	E-mail								
507	Letter	CM23 4BL			Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
508	E-mail								

Community Governance Review of Bishop's Stortford Town Council - Second stage consultation responses

No.	Thorley Parish Council electoral arrangements - if the above changes to the parish boundary go ahead, do you agree that Thorley Parish on its revised boundaries should no longer be divided into wards and that the new Thorley Parish Council should comprise of five parish councillors rather than the current seven? (& comments/reasons)	Do you agree with any of Thorley Parish Council's alternative proposals for changes to the parish boundary between Bishop's Stortford and Thorley?				District Ward Boundaries - If the above changes to the parish boundary go ahead, do you agree that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England should be asked to change the relevant District Ward and County Division boundaries where necessary to align them with the revised parish boundaries? (& comments/reasons)	Do you have any other comments on the parish boundary or on the arrangements for town/parish governance in the area	Ward boundaries within Bishop's Stortford town - Do you agree that minor changes should be made to the ward boundaries within Bishop's Stortford as proposed by Bishop's Stortford Town Council? (& reasons)	Do you agree with the proposal from Bishop's Stortford Town Council to reduce the number of town councillors elected to represent All Saints Ward by one, from 4 to 3, thereby reducing the overall size of the town council from 18 to 17 councillors, in order to improve electoral equality?
		Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Reasons/comments				
1 & 126	No Prior to the last review, Thorley Parish had 7 councillors. After the last review and subsequent development, Thorley Parish nearly doubled in population, there was no proposal for extra councillors at that time, nor should there be a proposal for reduction in this instance				No	I am sure that if for any reason these changes are allowed to go ahead, then there are procedures to be followed - I don't think that this question should be asked as part of a public consultation since one would have to study the procedures in order to be able to answer it correctly. (Form 2) I believe that whatever is the correct procedure following the outcome of the review should be actioned - this question should not be part of a public consultation as there are rules existing covering this and the public response can't change that. I assume that EHDC have an ulterior motive for inclusion of this question	The present boundary proposals are illogical and appear to satisfy none of the terms of reference. The only apparent reason [as stated in the original CGRI] seems to be to control the proposed new development site, presumably for pecuniary reasons, as no other have been demonstrated. (Form 2) The initial and subsequent proposals are not logical, they do not demonstrate any advantages for either area residents from the changes.	No No evidence on any aspects of the terms of reference has been presented to warrant the changes	
2	Don't know				No				
3	Yes Too many councillors as it is				Yes	District and Town / Parish boundaries should be the same where possible			
4	Don't know				Don't know	Have some concerns about Southern Country Park moving out of Thorley Parish and in to Town Council but hopefully East Herts would still manage the site.			

Community Governance Review of Bishop's Stortford Town Council - Second stage consultation responses

No.	Do you agree with any of Thorley Parish Council's alternative proposals for changes to the parish boundary between Bishop's Stortford and Thorley?				District Ward Boundaries - If the above changes to the parish boundary go ahead, do you agree that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England should be asked to change the relevant District Ward and County Division boundaries where necessary to align them with the revised parish boundaries? (& comments/reasons)	Do you have any other comments on the parish boundary or on the arrangements for town/parish governance in the area	Ward boundaries within Bishop's Stortford town - Do you agree that minor changes should be made to the ward boundaries within Bishop's Stortford as proposed by Bishop's Stortford Town Council? (& reasons)	Do you agree with the proposal from Bishop's Stortford Town Council to reduce the number of town councillors elected to represent All Saints Ward by one, from 4 to 3, thereby reducing the overall size of the town council from 18 to 17 councillors, in order to improve electoral equality?
	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Reasons/comments				
5 & 115	No	Yes	No	Option 1 is the only sensible course of action. The Bishop's Stortford Civic Federation have presented a compelling case for withdrawing the petition. I find it profoundly undemocratic that residents who have not moved in and will not move in for some years are being claimed by Bishops Stortford Town Council. Surely the residents should be allowed a say? Councillor John Wyllie at the EHDC meeting in the Parish on July acknowledged BSTC had made mistakes. The main one was to fail to consult Thorley Parish Council before putting in the petition. I am a former Parish Councillor and was resident in the Parish for 28 years.	No	I am asking for retention of areas in Thorley. The proposed boundaries do not suit and so I do not agree.		
6	Don't know				Don't know	This is yet another cynical attempt to subvert local democracy in order to facilitate over development. Hopefully it will be considered at the next election		
7	No				No	Why do you have to change things and make them more complicated? Bishop's Stortford is not changing for the better, there are far too many houses and not enough parking, or road space. The town is gridlocked often and no one seems to care! Maybe not the right place to say it, but that's how I feel!		
8	Don't know				Don't know	Green belt land should mean green belt for ever not give you the right to change it so you can build on it!		

Community Governance Review of Bishop's Stortford Town Council - Second stage consultation responses

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		Option 1	Option 2	Option 3				
9	No There is no reason to change the number of councillors as there is a minimum number of people required to run a council effectively and I believe 5 would be too few.	No			No The rural areas and urban areas should not be confused. The plan is "assuming" that significant development has "already" taken place and it has not. As the lands stands "today" there is no need to confuse the urban and rural councils.	The council seems to predicated these changes based on things that might happen in the future. The rural residents are best served by a rural council that has the village at its heart and the urban residents are best served by the town council. As the land stands "today" there it would not be in the best interests of the village residents to be served by the town council. Changing the boundaries before the land has change use suggests that the council already knows the outcome of planning committees, public inquiries and so forth, which it does not (and cannot) and therefore is premature. The boundaries can be re-visited after the circumstances have changed. At this point in time nothing has changed and therefore there is no requirement to change the boundaries.		
10	No More than five councillors are required.				Don't know	Changing the Council boundaries to acquire green belt land surrounding Whittington Way is for development purposes only with no other benefit and BS cannot cope with anymore development.		
11	Yes No purpose is served by having the parish split, indeed it is to the detriment of all concerned. However, we are not convinced of the need to reduce the number of councillors to five from the seven which have existed for over a century.				Yes To be constant	PLEASE NOT THAT THIS FORM WAS FILLED IN BY BOTH MR AND MRS LOADMAN WHO SHARE THE SAME VIEWS. INDEED WE BELIEVE THAT ALL THE OLD PROPERTIES FRONTING ONTO THORLEY LANE EAST SHOULD ALSO BE PART OF THORLEY PARISH AS THAT IS WHERE WE FACE PHYSICALLY AND WHERE OUR LOYALTIES LIE.		
12	No Such a change is to the detriment of the residents of Thorley Parish.				No The proposed changes are to the detriment of democratic representation of the residents of Thorley Parish.	We feel strongly that these changes should not be made - they reduce our right to proper democratic representation.		
13	No				No			
14	No I feel we are justified in having 7 people represent us				No I don't believe the boundary should change other than the few houses that are needed to as already mentioned			
15	No				No	Abundantly clear this is only under consideration because of the development on green belt land...		
16 & 125	Yes				Yes	Utterly disingenuous	Yes	

Community Governance Review of Bishop's Stortford Town Council - Second stage consultation responses

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		Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Reasons/comments				
17 & 106	I don't have sufficient knowledge to comment on this.	No	No	Yes	With regard to the so-called 'Bishop's Stortford South' I don't believe that any decision should be made until there is certainty that development will take place. If it does proceed then perhaps it should be the new residents who decide its status. Until then it should remain in Thorley Parish.	Yes	It makes sense.	I'm very disappointed that this consultation has been allowed to create such divisions between BSTC and Thorley Parish (and its residents). I feel that the blame lies squarely with BSTC who appear to have hatched this proposal without any due regard as to how it would be received in Thorley. They must have realised that it would prove to be very controversial. The proposal should have been subject to detailed local discussion before it was submitted to EHDC.	
18	No				Local participation in democracy would be reduced by fewer councillors.	No	Do not change something which we are quite happy with at the moment.	Small is better that large and you are proposing to make the existing large even larger. If there are good reasons for this, then state them clearly in ways in which we residents can see the benefits which may be obvious to you but are not to us.	
19	No				Absolutely not. Why would we wish to lose two of our councillors.	No	This is just the governments way of appeasing local development plans that cause total devastation not taking into account the interest of our rural ward and neighbouring parishes.	What is going to happen to the land that currently houses TBSSHS and Herts and Essex school? More development; loss of green belt and more money in developers pockets for developing houses on those sites. Don't we have enough of an infrastructure problem as it is?	
20	No				The councillors that are in place are totally up to speed on the current affairs and feelings of the local residents and uphold our way of life in our valued community.	No	This is just ECC way of gaining full control and I am totally opposed to this.	I am so very angry about this. The two high schools will be replaced with flats no doubt. Meanwhile our beautiful greenbelt land will be further eroded and we will have more cars polluting our rural environment.	
21	No				Again, change is not what we want.	No	Let us hope it does not come to this bearing in mind the policies of our current government do not allow building to take place on greenbelt land that is category B, which this is.	This does not only effect the infrastructure that is already lacking at best, but also pollution, loss of habitat for many species of plants and animals that are at risk of extinction. We risk losing these spaces and just become a concrete jungle. What do we pass on to future generations?	
22	No				Why would we wish for less councillors to uphold our way of life and fight for our individual needs and requirements.	No	The residents would not benefit from a change from the current situation and should be protected at all costs.	Whilst there is urgent need for houses to be built for our growing population, we must be very careful that we do not lose areas of natural beauty that are already inhabited by many plants and animals and enjoyed by many as a place of great beauty.	

Community Governance Review of Bishop's Stortford Town Council - Second stage consultation responses

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		Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Reasons/comments			
23	No				No	The residents would not benefit from a change from the current situation and should be protected at all costs.	Whilst there is urgent need for houses to be built for our growing population, we must be very careful that we do not lose areas of natural beauty that are already inhabited by many plants and animals and enjoyed by many as a place of great beauty. There are more suitable sites available for this expansion and changing our boundaries is another political move to destroy our way of life. Do not make this a box ticking exercise that does not take into account what people really want and stand by your legislation that this land (grade B) is protected.	
24	Don't know				Yes		I think the whole parish (Thorley) should be scrapped and either incorporated into Bishop's Stortford (and turned into one of its ward) or possibly split between all the neighbouring parishes	
25	Don't know				Don't know			
26	Don't know				Don't know			
27	No				No	If no change then further change would not be needed	Such changes should be effected when developments are completed not in anticipation.	
28	Don't know				Yes			
29	No				No		Stop destroying the town. It is obvious to all that the move of boundaries is only so they can develop on land that is protected and this is disgraceful.	
30	No				No		At a recent public meeting the leader of the Bishop's Stortford Town Council said that they did not start this process correctly. Should it therefore not be cancelled and if need be started again.	
31	Yes				Yes			

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32	No	Thorley CP should be incorporated into Bishop's Stortford CP in its entirety			Yes				
33	Yes		No	No		Yes			
34	No		No	No		No			
35	No	Local representation is important - reducing it lessens the chance that people will become involved.	Yes	No	Both Options 1 and 2 preserve Thorley Parish and enable it to continue as a viable element of local democracy and planning. This issue has raised awareness of Thorley Parish and it is now time to build on this awareness of local politics, not to remove it.	Yes			
36	Yes	This is two questions I agree to one ward only for the Parish but think 5 parish councillors is insufficient for Parish business, historically we have always had 7.	Yes	Yes		Yes	In view of the conflicting views between residents and EHDC it would be better for all concerned		
37	Yes	5 should be able to adequately reflect the views of our parish	Yes	No	Southern Country Park should remain part of 'Old' Thorley. We are a rural parish and have needs and requirements that are specific to living in such a location. Southern Country Park would also share these requirements and I believe that the land would be managed in a more sensitive way.	Yes			
38	Don't know		Yes	No		Don't know			

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39	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Boundary Governance Review should not be carried out until there is actual and proper evidence in the future to do so, if ever.	Yes	The consultation has been difficult for residents due to lack of information.		
40 & 130	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Any of the above would provide a logical physical boundary and negate the possibility of cross boundary development in the future.	No	I am happy with the status quo and view this change as an attempt to railroad the community into accepting the development of Bishop's Stortford South. I wish to retain the area as a beautiful rural community, and not to be swallowed up as another suburb of a sprawling town. There is far too much unsustainable and ill-thought out development in the town, which is destroying its historic, rural character. The infrastructure cannot cope with any further development. We are constantly having unwanted development foisted upon us from outside of the town, and it seems that genuine local representation is now derisory and powerless. (Form 2) BISHOP'S STORTFORD IS BEING UTTERLY RUINED BY GROSS OVER-DEVELOPMENT, WHICH SEEMS TO BE IMPOSED ABOVE LOCAL LEVEL FROM EAST HERTS DISTRICT COUNCIL: THERE IS CONSTANT GRIDLOCK; INSUFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES TO CATER FOR A BURGEONING POPULATION; AND APPALLING LONG-TERM PLANNING. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.	THERE IS TOO MUCH UNSUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE TOWN AND THIS IS A FURTHER ATTEMPT BY EAST HERTS TO FURTHER WEAKEN GENUINE REPRESENTATION AT LOCAL LEVEL AND ERODE RESIDENTS' ABILITY TO THWART DEVELOPERS' PLANS.	No answer
41	Yes	No	No	No		Yes			
42	Don't know	Yes	Yes	No	I would be happy with either option 1 or 2 but don't want option 3 as that looks to me like Lake View would then be included in the town council part and for the reasons stated above we want to stay in the more rural outlooking Thorley parish	Yes	I presume it makes sense to do that and is a legal requirement?		
43 & 124	No	No	Yes	No	Option 2 is the most logical	Don't know	The initial reaction from local people to the change proposed by BSTC was overwhelmingly against it. The review in respect of those proposed changes, should have concluded them. The need to pursue this matter despite that reaction suggests that a simple boundary change was not what this is really all about. (Form 2) The fact that EHDC can adjudicate on this issue, when it clearly has a vested interest in the outcome, borders on fraudulence	No	The boundary changes as proposed are merely to facilitate building yet more houses south of the town

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		Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Reasons/comments				
44	No	Yes	No	No	No	No			
45	No	Yes	No	No	No	No			
46 & 112	Don't know	No answer	Yes	No answer	Yes	Yes		Don't know	
47	Don't know	Need more information to make an informed decision.			Don't know	Need more information to make an informed decision.	BSYC should be more transparent on all these issues.	Don't know	
48	No	Stop interfering and do something useful			No	Stop interfering and do something useful	Stop interfering and do something useful	No	
49	Don't know	No information presented to provide decision upon.			Don't know	No information presented to provide decision upon.	Believe there should be better communications from BSYC re these changes.	Don't know	
50	No	Happy as it is.			No	Happy as it is.	Your wasting time & money	No	
51 & 107	No	Keep 7 councillors & extend Thorley Parish.	Yes	No	I would like Lake View to stay within Thorley Parish as we want to stay part of a rural parish with rural values & opinions.	Don't know	I would be happy with Option 1 or Option 2 proposed by Thorley Parish but not Option 3 if that includes Lake View going into BS Town Council.	No	Not if those 'minor' changes affect the Thorley Parish & try to reduce it. If Thorley Parish is increased in line with Option 1 or 2, then the Town Council can alter BS wards if necessary.
52	Don't know				Yes	Yes	Note sure why such a mess of consultation can be legally accepted since the full picture is not and has not been evidenced i.e. no mention of change of Southern Country Park boundary. There are now 3 leaflets all undated floating around!	Don't know	
53	No	No reason to change to 5 councillors. You have asked two questions as one			Yes	Thought this was by law so not sure why we've been asked this question.	Note sure why such a mess of consultation can be legally accepted since the full picture is not and has not been evidenced i.e. no mention of change of Southern Country Park boundary. There are now 3 leaflets all undated floating around!	No	Not sure as electorally this meets 'equality' - so many changes that are based on probably inaccurate forecasts.
54 & 98		No answer	No answer	Yes					
55 & 96	No	Thorley Parish will need the current seven councillors	No answer	No answer	Option 2 makes sense to me. Thorley Parish should be as large as possible to get the votes to protect this rural part of our town for future generations.	No	Should EHC & BSC get full control of Thorley Parish, they will destroy this rural part of our town.	Don't know	

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56	No	Not all of the above changes should go ahead - see my individual responses.			No	I would tick 'yes', but only if the land south of Whittington Way remains in Thorley Parish. This is a priority.	Councils must heed local residents' wishes, not attack Green Belt land's status craftily, by altering the parish boundary. Shame on you!	Yes	It is common sense to 'tidy up' the ward boundaries in the town, as proposed.
57 & 94	Yes		No	No	Yes			Yes	
58	No				Don't know			Yes	
59		No wards and seven councillors			I don't know which changes are going to occur as yet		If the changes take place it will have a devastating effect on Thorley Parish and our quality of life and for the future of our residents.		I don't live in the town
60	No				No			No	
61	No	Parish boundary			No	Parish boundary	I don't think the current Thorley boundary should be change especially not the town/parish governance.	No	Parish boundary
62 & 108	No	How can you have 5 councillors representing 231 electors and 7 councillors (8/5) representing 33, 664. It's nonsense.	Yes	Yes	Any would be fine - perhaps the only contentious point is which parish St. Michael's Mead should reside	There should only be the very limited boundary changes (Rectory Close & Park View Cottages above). Does this need Commission's say so.	It is obvious to everybody that the changes to the Thorley Parish boundary are primarily to facilitate the proposed development of B/S South	Yes	The obvious 'tidying up' ones referred to above (Rectory Close & Park View Cottages)
63	Don't know				Don't know		Thorley Parish will be marginalised if the proposals go through	Don't know	
64	No				No			No	
65	No				No			No	
66	No				No			No	
67 & 97	No	Once again you are pre-judging answers, but I think it should be left alone.	No	No	Maintain as we are and for the future, use Whittington Way as the physical boundary as it is now and has been for many years. Any future development for Thorley 5th should not go ahead as many more people will be affected by Stansted flight paths.	No	Just leave alone and concentrate on items that matter to the town. Reduce crime, better roads, a cleaner town, maintain Rhodes Complex. We pay your wages.	No	Once again I feel the Council is acting on its own without even asking the electorate.
68	Yes				Yes			Yes	

Community Governance Review of Bishop's Stortford Town Council - Second stage consultation responses

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		Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Reasons/comments	
69	Yes					Yes
70 & 101	No	Yes	Yes	Don't know	Options 1 & 2 seem to have a logical boundary between B/S & Thorley - though I have to say that the maps provided by the councils leave a lot to be desired & it would have been a good idea to have large scale plans on the website. If you did then I didn't find it. Option 3 could mean that a larger number of residents are transferred to B/S which leaves TPC less viable. The previous proposed reduction from 7 to 5 councillors means that meaningful discussion may not take place. It is important to retain a large number of voters.	Yes
71	No				Don't know	Yes
72	No				Don't know	Don't know
73	No				Don't know	Don't know
74	Don't know				Don't know	Don't know
75 & 105	No	No	Yes	No	So Thorley Parish does not disappear and we maintain the boundaries as we have for years & years.	Yes
76					No	No
77	No				No	No
78	Don't know				Don't know	Don't know

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		Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Reasons/comments				
79						Don't know		Don't know	
80	It should not go ahead				No	The above changes are not welcomed and should not go ahead	STOP what you are doing	Don't know	
81	No				No		Leave well alone. If it ain't broke no need to mend.	No	
82	The more the merrier				No		Any changes would split the village/parish of Thorley. Not necessary.	No	
83	Historically, there have been 7 councillors. Why change this?				No	Please listen to the residents and act on their say.	This is land grab and driven by pure greed. As a long standing resident of Thorley I have taken the time & trouble to fill this form. Please feel free to reply in writing to [name & address provided]	No	Tell me please why change. Don't try to fix something that ain't broke.
84	No reason to change the number of councillors. They don't receive any remuneration so long may they protect Thorley.				No	Hopefully will not be necessary if Council listens to views of their electorate.	This has been marketed as a change to equalise the size of parish's and to give clear boundaries. This is a lie. It is a land grab for building purposes. The sign for Bishop's Stortford is beyond the land B/STC want.	Don't know	Don't know enough about the areas.
85	No							Don't know	
86	No				Don't know			No	
87	No				Don't know			No	
88	Don't know				Yes	Logical	No	Don't know	
89 & 90	Depending on the outcome - to be addressed	Yes	No	No	No	Any of these are preferable and more logical than any of the EHDC proposals and the residents have expressed disagreement with EHDC/BSTC proposals	Without evidence against - leave as is.	Yes	If evidence that residents want it can be produced.
91 & 112	Why are there fewer councillors for the same area. This has not been adequately explained.	No	No	Yes		I believe is a requirement.	I am unsure why there is a need to change Thorley wards, apart from to ensure the town opinion excludes rural. If you had made information more accessible & easy to read/understand you would have received wider opinion. I am bright but find the information unwieldy & difficult to understand. This make me believe EHDC does not want me to understand for some underhand way - hence all the responses regarding removing green belt & developing. I can see no other advantage of changing things. Living in an area with so much traffic & pollution is awful & it makes you feel helpless when you know the Council will do what it wants regardless.		
92		Yes	No	No					

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		Option 1	Option 2	Option 3						
93		Yes	Yes	No						
95		Yes	Yes	No		These options would appear to give Thorley greater political power and retain its sense of community.				
99		No answer	Yes	No answer		Was it a deliberate play not to make the maps more distinguishable? What difference does age make on the questionnaire, it is totally irrelevant.				
100		Yes	Yes	Don't know		How much easier - 3 options clearly identified & either yes/no. Option 3 - I am not clear about as to how St Michael's Mead community view this.				
102		No	No	No		Defeats the purpose of sensible change.				
103		Yes	Yes	Don't know		It would seem that St Michael's Mead has more in common with Thorley Parish than Bishop's Stortford town.				
104		No	No	Yes		It simplifies things and makes sense for all of St Michael's Mead to be under Bishop's Stortford Town Council governance.				
109		No	No	No						
110		No answer	Yes	No answer						
111		Yes	Yes	No						
113	No					Question too technical to understand	Yes	SAVE THORLEY IN ANCIENT FORM & protect green spaces (extend Southern Park). Save Green Belt. PS Your previous 'Planning' actions cut off Old Thorley (incl. Twyford) & new Thorley Park parishioners off from their church (of St James Thorley), firstly by wrongly siting Whittington Way (slashing through 'the Spinney') & then of the 'by pass' (a desecration). There was no construction of foot/cycle route replacement between Twyford Park and St James Church.		
114	No					?? Unclear questions	Yes	Hands off Thorley!!		

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		Option 1	Option 2	Option 3				
116 & 134		Yes	Yes	Yes		I am writing to provide my comments on the second stage consultation and to oppose the proposed changes to the parish boundary between Bishops Stortford and Thorley. Firstly, I am appalled by how this review and consultation have been conducted and urge the council to start the whole process from the start. This is based on the following facts: Fact 1 - The views of Thorley Parish Council should have been sought at the start of the review but were not. At a public meeting on 18th July, Councillor John Wiley admitted this was a mistake and 'apologised' to residents for this. Councillor Wiley said "The Town Council failed in not consulting with Thorley Parish Council". An apology is not good enough. The Thorley Parish Council need to have their views taken into consideration - this is an extremely important part of the process. Fact 2 - Information on the review should have been made available to those impacted during the consultation process but wasn't. At the public meeting on 18th July, the councillors confirmed that those of us in Thorley Parish were not included in the mail-drop of leaflets - and no valid reason was given as to why not. Information was also supposed to have been made public at the library, information centre and council offices, but nothing was available at any of these venues (in fact the customer services team at the council had not even heard about the review). Communication is a crucial part of the review process and the Town Council have completely failed here. I have to wonder whether information was intentionally withheld? The only way those of us in Thorley Parish have become aware of this is through the amazing work of OTTRA to supply and post information to every resident. Bishops Stortford Town Council has failed to conduct a fair and appropriate legislative review of the parish boundary, and this must surely provide strong evidence that the		

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		Option 1	Option 2	Option 3					
117 & 133		Yes	Yes	Yes	All of these options are preferable to the options proposed by Bishop's Stortford Town Council and will retain the character of Thorley Parish.		I am writing to provide my views on the second stage consultation on the proposed changes to parish boundary between Bishops Stortford and Thorley. I have 2 points to make: firstly that the review has not been fairly conducted and should be started again; and secondly that I oppose the border changes to land south of Whittington Way. Review has not been conducted fairly - this has become evident because the views of Thorley Parish Council were not sought at the start of the process. This is completely negligent on the part of Bishops Stortford Town Council. At the public meeting on 18th July, Councillor John Wiley stated: "Stortford Town Council failed in not consulting with Thorley Parish Council". On this basis, a full and fair review process has not been conducted. In addition to this, notification about the consultation to the public and local residents has been extremely poor. Informative leaflets for the stage one consultation were not distributed to large sections of the electorate and referenced documents were not made available for public viewing. A lack of timely and adequate public notification has continued with stage two of the consultation with printed consultation leaflets not being distributed again. The review has therefore failed to meet the legislative requirements of electoral equality, be reflective of the local community, and in promotion of effective/convenient local government. As such, it needs to be abandoned and started again.		
118		No	Yes	No					
119	No	Yes	Yes	No	Do not wish any further development which is already excessive in BS.	Don't know	I can't see any benefit as a St Michael's Mead resident for a change.		

Community Governance Review of Bishop's Stortford Town Council - Second stage consultation responses

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			Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Reasons/comments				
	120	No The change should not go ahead	Yes	No	No		No			
	121	No There is no basis for reducing the number of councillors taking into account the relative size of other parish councils in the UK generally.	No	Yes	No		Yes			

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		Option 1	Option 2	Option 3				
122							Yes	I refer to the paper I received today on the proposed changes in ward boundaries. Firstly I failed on two occasions to get up the form on line, I am therefore passing my comments on via this e mail. I am in agreement with the proposed changes, there have been anomalies in the ward boundaries for some time, these changes will correct them, my only query arises from the amount of new building in Stortford Fields and St Michaels Hurst, these will add considerable to the number of electors in Meads and Silver Keys wards probably above the recommended numbers per Councillor. What proposals are there for this eventuality?

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		Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Reasons/comments				
123						No	I agree with the comments from BSCF being 'However, there is an additional objection, namely that the Draft Plan designates Thorley as a Group 3 village. Within such villages the plan proposes that only limited infill development as identified in neighbourhood plans will be permitted. The Neighbourhood Plan covering this site, as well as the rest of southern Bishop's Stortford, makes it clear that the local population is strongly opposed to any development on this site, and by no stretch of the imagination could the development proposed be regarded as limited infill or sanctioned by the Neighbourhood Plan. There is therefore an inherent contradiction in the Draft Plan between the proposed development of 750 homes, two schools and a neighbourhood centre, and the policy on Group 3 villages which is applicable to most of the site. The consultation currently taking place on proposed main modifications to the Draft Plan includes nothing which would resolve this inherent contradiction, and it remains to be seen what conclusions the Inspector will reach on the matter. It therefore seems to the Civic Federation that the underlying reason for the proposed boundary changes is not administrative tidiness but to provide a retrospective legitimisation of an inherent flaw in the Draft Plan as it stands. Given that we object to the development of the Whittington Way site we can see no justification for the boundary change which appears to seek to anticipate the Inspector's decisions on the Draft Plan. I should also add that if, against our wishes, and following consideration by the Inspector, EHDC adopts the Plan with this major development included in it, we would also question the rationale for the boundary change. The development will have a devastating impact on the village of Thorley. It would therefore seem to us contrary to natural justice that, with the development having trashed the village, a smash and grab deal. The Parish Boundary should run up Whittington Way	The ward boundaries should be along main arteries within the town to allow residents to easily recognise which ward they reside in.	
127						No			
128						No			Don't know

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129 & 135					Yes	Let's make Bishops Stortford a larger town status and we get more government funding for the people of Bishops Stortford. (Email) Hi there I hope Bishop's Stortford gets the approval to take over Thorley Parish Council I would also like to see Bishop's Stortford have its own district council it's becoming a large town status and Stortford needs much more infrastructure at present Stortford has one of the biggest new house build development in the south east of England with more development planned so as councillors you all need to give the people of Stortford much more facilities it's not a market town anymore it's a large commuter town to Liverpool Street and key workers town for London and Stansted airport on the door step of the M11 so basically we need more funding as for the Thorley Parish boundary take over Stortford needs the section 106 money we get for the new 1200 home development called Stortford South so as councillors I hope you agree Stortford is now becoming like Chelmsford a area hub town so what are your plans for Bishops Stortford more houses means we need more facilities		Yes
131								
132						The review and consultation has failed to meet the legislative requirements of electoral equality and as such the review must be abandoned and started again. There are 3 strong facts to support this: 1. The views of Thorley Parish Council were not sought at the start of the process. At the public meeting on 18th July, Councillor John Wiley stated "Stortford Town Council failed in not consulting with Thorley Parish Council". 2. Informative leaflets for the stage one consultation were not distributed to large sections of the electorate and referenced documents were not made available for public viewing. 3. A lack of timely and adequate public notification has continued with stage two of the consultation with printed consultation leaflets not being distributed again.		

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		Option 1	Option 2	Option 3					
136							These are my comments on the Second Stage Consultation. They are much informed by the extremely helpful public meeting that was held on 18 July at the St Barnabas Centre. Firstly a couple of general comments. Consultation publicity I think this has been inadequate for an issue that involves so many people. I was shocked to find at the public meeting that documents were not made available by the Council at the usual points where electors might expect to find publicity. Were it not for the painstaking efforts of OTTRA in spreading information and letters from individuals in the local paper then I doubt that this important issue would have come to the attention of many of those affected. Even now, I rather suspect that there remains a large body of people who are unaware of the implications of these proposals. Timing. I find this the most intriguing question of all. Why is it that Bishop's Stortford Town Council are invoking this legal process now? It was only as recently as September last year that the Neighbourhood Plan for All Saints, Central, South and part of Thorley went to referendum and in that Plan was the statement that within those existing boundaries was a strong community vision that seeks to contribute to sustainable development. Call me cynical, but if the Town Council had an aspiration to extend its boundaries then that might have been the appropriate vehicle to float a vision rather than to rush it in now. Indeed, the Inspector who examined the plan commented that it was not necessary to extend the referendum area because many of the policies in the plan would not have been of relevance in the remaining wards of the town and there were no representations to suggest that the referendum area should be extended. Inside the Town Council itself there is strong evidence that these proposed changes are a knee-jerk reaction to the SSCC boundary for 2018/19.		
301 & 304									See e-mails of 10.08.18 & 14.08.18 (docs 301 & 304)
302 & 303									See e-mails of 03.08.18 & 13.07.18 (docs 302 & 303)
305									See e-mail of 12.07.18 (doc 305)

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501 & 502	No comment	No	No	No	Yes	Request a reduction in the number of Town Councillors to 17 in accordance with the scheme set out below on the grounds that this would improve electoral balance (see e-mail for proposed scheme)	Yes	See e-mails of 28.6.2018 (doc 501) & 08.08.2018 (doc 502)
503								
504					No	The Council states that "The status of Thorley Village as a Group 3 village within the emerging District Plan will not be affected." we do not think this is true, as by adopting this change to boundaries you greatly reduce the number of residents and potential residents in any future development which would benefit the residents of the Thorley Parish Council.	Ward boundaries should remain the same or be kept to local main roads for instance All Saints B1383 and A1060, Meads B1383 and A1250, Silverleys A1250 and B1004, South Ward B1040 and A1060, the remaining boundaries to Littleford and Thorley Parish should remain. A Central ward should remain. Your own document states 'change to boundary so that split is at a natural point', which this suggestion would incorporate.	See letter of 31 July 2018 (doc 503)
505								See e-mail of 10.08.18 (doc 505)

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506				Yes I favour Option 3. It makes absolute sense that St Michael's Mead residents should not be within the parish boundary and as there are no electors residing in Southern Country Park why move it out of Thorley Parish in to Town Council? Our main partner is East Herts Council and it would appear that it makes little difference to us if the park sits within Parish or Town Council boundaries, unless there is a hidden agenda.				
507	Yes but with 7 cllrs But with seven councillors							See letter of 31.07.18 (doc 507) including map of further alternative boundary option
508								See e-mail of 23.08.18 (doc 508) including maps of 3 x further alternative boundary options.