

The Chairman
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
20 Albert Embankment
London
SE1 7TJ

Sir

Local Government Act, 1972
Mandatory Review of the County of Bedfordshire
Boundary of Milton Keynes Borough Council and
Mid Bedfordshire District Council.

I was appointed an Assistant Commissioner in accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972 and invited to conduct a public meeting on behalf of your Commission into the need for any changes in the county boundary of Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire County Councils, in the area of Mid Bedfordshire District Council and Milton Keynes Borough Council.

In particular I was asked to examine the following:-

- (i) to what extent does the area of the parishes of Aspley Guise, Aspley Heath and Woburn Sands, taking account of localities, the wishes of the inhabitants and the operation of local services, form a single community? In the light of the conclusions on this point whether or not it should be united in one county and, if so, which and where the county boundary should be drawn.
- (ii) if Aspley Guise, Aspley Heath and Woburn Sands do not effectively constitute a single community, are any changes nevertheless called for in the county boundary better to reflect the division between them? and
- (iii) if changes in the county boundary are considered desirable what consequential changes, if any, need to be made to the boundaries of the three parishes and to the local electoral arrangement at district and county level.

The need for a local meeting arose out of the Commission's mandatory review of the county of Bedfordshire. This had been initiated by a letter from the Commission to Bedfordshire County Council dated 26 July 1985. I have studied the record of proposals, comments and criticisms uttered since the decision to undertake the review was announced.

The first proposal for change came from Milton Keynes Borough Council and was intended to achieve an improvement in what was claimed to be an unsatisfactory boundary between the parish of Woburn Sands in the borough of Milton Keynes and the parishes of Aspley Heath and Aspley Guise in the district of Mid Bedfordshire. In the light of the comments made on the original proposal the Borough Council lodged an amended scheme for a more extensive change, based on the claim that there is no recognisable division between the settlements of

Woburn Sands and Aspley Guise and that both Aspley Guise and Aspley Heath look to the new town of Milton Keynes for employment, amenities and shopping.

The Woburn Sands Town Council offered its own more limited bid for a boundary adjustment that would transfer parts of Aspley Guise to their Parish on the grounds that the present boundary is illogical and does not follow any natural division between the counties. The Town Council did address itself to the basic issue of the provision of effective and convenient local government by citing various instances of confusion over service provision, planning and street lighting.

The proposals of both the Borough and the Town Council provoked a strong and in the main hostile reception from the other local authorities concerned i.e. county, district and parishes and also from organisations and individuals particularly in the parishes of Aspley Heath and Aspley Guise. The suggestion was made that if change is necessary for the various reasons outlined then the best solution would be transfer the parish of Woburn Sands to the Mid Bedfordshire District.

In a letter to the Bedfordshire County Council dated the 29 October, 1986, the Commission published its own draft proposal for alterations to the boundary between the two counties in the area of the borough and the district. The Commission had formed a view that the existing boundary in the area is anomalous and divides the existing community of Woburn Sands. They had noted that Woburn Sands is a settlement of some age and size and there appeared to be no case in terms of effective and convenient local government for its transfer to Bedfordshire. They had further noted that although the majority of those individuals affected by the submission from Milton Keynes Borough Council were opposed to any change, there was a general recognition that the existing boundary in the area did not reflect the pattern of community life. The Commission proposed therefore to transfer the areas containing boroughs Close, Swallowfield Primary and Fulbrook Secondary Schools and parts of Weathercock Lane to the parish of Woburn Sands from which they appear to have no physical separation. They also noted that some of the properties around the southern end of Weathercock Lane appear to have rather more community of interest with Aspley Guise Parish, but by their location they are inevitably closely linked with Woburn Sands. The Commission therefore also decided to transfer these properties. So far as the parish of Aspley Heath is concerned the Commission took the view that the areas sought by Milton Keynes Borough Council do not form an integral part of the Woburn Sands community and they therefore decided to propose only a minor technical realignment to the boundary in that area.

There was a strong response to these proposals and the majority expressed opposition. Many requested that a local meeting should be held to enable local views to be expressed. After considering the representations received the Commission decided to withdraw its draft proposals and to arrange for a public meeting.

After being appointed to conduct the public meeting my attention was drawn to a letter to the Commission dated the 28th July, 1987 from the Chairman of the Wavendon Parish Council referring amongst other suggestions to the possibility that the line of the Milton Keynes New Town boundary should be settled as the county boundary and that would involve both Wavendon and Woburn Sands transferring from Buckinghamshire to Bedfordshire. I was advised that that possible solution was within my remit.

My attention was drawn to the fact that in conducting the local meeting, I was to have regard to the criteria established by the Local Government Act, 1972, paragraph 14 of and Annex B

to, DOE Circular 33/78. As parish boundaries could be affected by any principal area boundary proposals, consideration has also to be given to DOE Circular 121/77. I have attempted to do this.

On the 26th August, 1987, I visited the area by motor car. Arriving via Bow Brick Hill Road and the Lees. After parking near the library I travelled on foot the length of Woburn Sands High Street which offers a range of shopping and service facilities more extensive than anything available elsewhere in the three area under review. I then walked up Aspley Hill to its junction with Weathercock Lane and down the lane past Fulbrook School to Station Road. I returned to my car via Station Road and the High Street and drove from the library via Aspley Hill along Woodside to Wood Lane and on to West Hill and its junction with Church Street and Bedford Lane. There I stopped to view the new hotel development and other facilities. After that I travelled via Church Street to the railway station. Because of the letter from Wavendon I crossed the motorway to Hulcote and Salford returning back over the motorway to Woburn Sands via Cranfield Road, Lower End Road and Newport Road, Wavendon Church and Post Office and Woburn Sands Station. I stopped beyond Swallowfield School and returned on foot to the school and station. I then drove up Station Road and the High Street to Church Road in Aspley Heath and travelled Church Road as far as the school. There I turned and went back to Woburn Road leaving the area via Woburn.

On Sunday the 13th September, 1987, I travelled by car to Milton Keynes town centre, visited the leisure centre there and walked through the shopping centre. I then covered the route from Milton Keynes to Woburn Sands and Aspley Guise.

On Monday 14th September, I held a public meeting in the parish hall, Aspley Guise. It was conducted in two parts. A day time session from 11 to 4.55 with a lunch time adjournment from 12.55 to 1.45 and an evening meeting from 7pm to approximately 8pm. 143 signed the attendance list for the daytime meeting (list attached – Appendix A). 233 people signed the evening attendance list (list attached – Appendix B.) A significant number attended both meetings.

In the following paragraphs, I attempt to summarise the content of the days proceedings. A number of speakers supported their submission with written statements. These have been listed in Appendix C and are available if required. Additional written submissions were also put in during, before and after the meeting. These were in addition to those already made to the Commission. They are listed in Appendix D. They reinforce the extent and strength of feeling but do not appear to me to add to the total of relevant facts.

After opening the meeting I invited the local government interests to state their present position, and if advocating change to indicate the resource, service and electoral implications.

Mr R C Wilkinson, County Solicitor, Bedfordshire County Council

Stood by the written evidence already submitted. Conceded the present boundaries may appear anomalous. Asserted (i) impossible to suggest solution that would not be more anomalous without radical change and (ii) that in the opinion of Bedfordshire County Council present boundaries well understood by locals and have not given rise to any operational difficulties from local government viewpoint.

He averred that there is a clear local view against change and that this should be interpreted not as a simple aversion to change but a local community view that the present boundary does represent effective and convenient local government and the patter of community life. There is no evidence of ay complaints about the services attributable to the boundary.

In support of the case against change particular reference was made to the educational implications. Beds and Bucks operate two different systems. The two local authority schools serving the 3 parishes are Swallowfield Lower School and Fulbrook Middle School both in Beds but on the Bucks boundary.

An analysis of the September 1987 rolls of the two schools gives the following distribution:

Swallowfield Lower School ; Woburn Sands	116 pupils
Other Bucks areas	19 “
Bedfordshire	83 “
	—————
	218

The school was opened in 1981, as a replacement for an old Aspley Heath Lower School. Aspley Guise has its own lower school. The school is part of an integral Bedfordshire ‘pyramid’ of education rising through a middle school system, which is different to that of Bucks, to the County Upper School level.

Fulbrook Middle School	Woburn Sands	99 pupils
	Other Bucks residents	31 “
	Bedfordshire	146 “
		—————
		276

If the school was transferred to Bucks and Beds pupils sought an alternative elsewhere in Beds this could bring into question the viability of Fulbrook which at present has a planned expansion of 33 with a long term forecast of 300 pupils

It is Bedfordshire’s submission that any immediate switch of the 2 schools to the Bucks system would give rise to severe educational difficulties for Bedfordshire children. This has been acknowledged by Bucks and that authority has now intimated that on transfer the 2 schools could remain of the same character subject to review in the early 1990’s. In summary the country council claims that the present arrangements appear fully to meet parental wishes on both sides of the present boundary. Any transfer to Bucks would at best cause considerable uncertainty and at worst result in educational disruption and disadvantage. (It is worth noting that proposals for a nation curriculum, wider parental choice and the possibility of oping out of the local authority system add to the uncertainties).

On the subject of the pattern of community life, it is the county council’s view that the present boundaries accurately reflect the existence of three distinct communities working in close co-operation with each other particularly in the sharing of certain local authority services. In the council’s view the sharing of services does not lead to the conclusion that the three parishes represent one community. (The provision of services – shared or otherwise – is only one factor in assessing the pattern of community life. Social, commercial and cultural integration at a comprehensible level may be more indicative than either boundaries or common services). If it is felt there is a case for change and the minority should prevail, then it is the Beds view that Woburn Sands should transfer into that county. Any other marginal

adjustment would simply perpetuate the disadvantages, which are perceived by some to exist in respect of the present boundary and cause disruption for no tangible benefit. This would accord more closely to the expressed wishes of the inhabitants of the three parishes overall.

Bedfordshire – County Councillor A Chapman

20 years resident in Aspley, has business in Woburn Sands, elected representative for 13 years. Supports Bedfordshire approach. County Council is hung and divided. Very unusual for unanimity of view – no political difference on this issue. In his 13 years service the existing arrangements have in themselves given rise to no complaints and no problems. All the proposals made for change would be disruptive and could have an adverse effect on services, particularly (i) Planning (ii) Sheltered housing and (iii) Housing. The very vulnerable, the old and the young are the ones who would suffer.

Not to say Bucks services inferior but against any change which would be disruptive. There will be county council elections in 20 months time and what guarantee is there that the undertakings given now will be continued into the future.

Change is unsought, unjustified and unacceptable. The lesser of 2 evils would be for Woburn Sands to join Beds.

In answer to a question Mr Chapman did accept that the three areas form one community but emphasised that in his opinion this does not make a case for change because the existing arrangements work well, are understood and reflect the wishes of the inhabitants.

Mr D U Pullen, County Secretary and Solicitor, Buckinghamshire

After rehearsing the previous responses with reasons for the county councils attitude to the earlier proposals, Mr Pullen said the county councils present view is that in the circumstances there should be no change to the boundary and they wish to adopt the following comment of the Bedfordshire County Council:

“Whilst by referent to a map the present boundaries may seem anomalous it is clear that they are understood and accepted by inhabitants and indeed reflect the existing pattern of community life whereby each parish/town depends on another for the provision of some services. Many local residents have chosen to live in the area on the basis of the present arrangements”.

If nevertheless it is decided change is necessary, the three areas should be in one county – that should be Bucks. The county council has not considered whether the new boundary should follow existing boundaries nor has there been any canvass of local opinion by the county council. The county council supports Milton Keynes in the view that Woburn Sands is the major centre of the three parishes for the provision of local services in shopping, medical facilities, professional and other services.

Although separated from the designated area of Milton Keynes New Town by open countryside with planning policies directed to the preservation of that separation nevertheless the settlement of Woburn Sands is believed to have strong links with Milton Keynes for shopping, business and employment and social and recreational facilities and for many essential services. The same facilities and services are available to serve Aspley Guise and

Aspley Heath. Each of the three settlements offer the advantages of easy access to the new city for those who work but do not live in Milton Keynes. The shopping and commercial centre of Bedford lies some 10 miles from the parishes, whilst central Milton Keynes is about 5 miles away. (This was later disputed).

Influence of Milton Keynes is bound to grow as it extends to the southeast flank where the boundary is about 1 mile from Woburn Sands. Even in 1981 the influence was clear. In Aspley Ward there were 1,110 out commuters, 540 to Milton Keynes as opposed to 270 elsewhere in Bedfordshire. Since 1981 around 18,000 more jobs have been created in Milton Keynes bringing the total to some 65,000.

On a local level the shopping facilities of Woburn Sands are available to serve many of the needs of residents in Aspley Guise and Aspley Heath, particularly in convenience goods. A large part of the Aspley Guise and Aspley Heath areas are within 10 minutes walking distance of the shopping centre of Woburn Sands.

Mr Pullen listed the facilities available in Woburn Sands and compared them what he claimed was the only other grouping of shops in the area in Aspley Guise, comprising 9 shops (3 at present vacant), and 2 public houses.

The arrangements for the provision of local government services have been well summarised by Milton Keynes in its earlier submission. Reference was made to the fact that the Bucks Fire Brigade already supplies first attendance cover to this area.

Three points in conclusion:-

- (i) county council completely opposed to the transfer of Woburn Sands from Bucks
- (ii) clear preference for no change in county boundary at this point
- (iii) the Commission's draft proposals did include one technical realignment. There may be others which could sensibly and uncontroversial be made in the event of the status quo remaining and the county council would be happy to examine this in detail at the appropriate time.

On the subject of education, Bucks are aware of the problems and the considerable concern that has been expressed. The County Council has now adopted a proposal of the County Education Officer to the effect that in the event of a change in the boundary which resulted in the two schools being transferred to Bucks there would be no immediate review of the age range of the two schools and that access to Bedfordshire upper school should be maintained through a formal agreement with Bedfordshire County Council. If changes seem appropriate at a later stage this could be linked with the coming on stream of the proposed new Walnut Tree Secondary School in Milton Keynes, not earlier than September 1991. There would be the usual prior consultation. In the meantime full professional support would be given to both schools and there would be no problem over maintaining professional contacts with schools in Bedfordshire.

If the three parishes are taken as a single community, then a third school, Aspley Guise Lower School, would be affected.

Mr R L Forman, District Administrator, Mid Bedfordshire District Council

His presentation was based on the District Council's written submission dated January 1987 on the Commission's draft proposal dated 29 October, 1986. Reference was made to the wishes of the local inhabitants as expressed on both the Milton Keynes and the Commisaiions proposals for change. The following analysis was offered:

- (a) 236 objectors in Aspley Guise Parish
- 70 objectors in Aspley Heath Parish
- 35 objectors in Woburn Sands Parish
- 10 objectors in Wavendon Parish
- 5 objectors in Bow Brickhill Parish
- 4 objectors in Woburn Parish
- 1 objector in Husborne Crawley Parish
- 1 objector in Hulcote and Salford Parish

- (b) I supported for Milton Keynes in Woburn Sands.

A useful list of the arguments advanced against the change was submitted and is set out below:

- (i) Milton Keynes case may appear well argued but misinterprets the local environment and lifestyle in Woburn Sands and the Aspleys
- (ii) many people take advantage of the fact that the boundary runs through the community and that community ties totally ignore the boundary.
- (iii) many parents have chosen to move to the area because of the Bedfordshire education system and there are fears about future arrangements if changes takes place.
- (iv) there are different planning policies between the two authorities and a higher level of rates is levied in Buckinghamshire
- (v) change might lead to a disruption in service provision at parish and district level
- (vi) the possibility that household and car insurance could increase on a transfer to Buckinghamshire
- (vii) strong links still exist between Aspley Guise and Bedford
- (viii) if change is to be made Woburn Sands should be transferred to Beds
- (ix) a major attraction to business people moving to Milton Keynes is the availability o high quality executive housing in outlying villages such as Aspley.
- (x) better standards of service were provided by the existing Bedfordshire authorities for health, education, policing and refuse collection. Fears exist that these would deteriorate (This was not challenged directly but is by implication in the

submission of Buckinghamshire County Council and Milton Keynes Borough Council)

- (xi) fear that Milton Keynes would swamp the area with modern development

(not all the claims made are supported by facts and some of the opinions offered are contradicted elsewhere, nevertheless, the summary does reflect a range and strength of feeling that shines through in the written submissions and the presentations during the day.)

Reference was also made to the Education objections. These are dealt with in detail later in this report.

Whilst acknowledging there is a community of interest reflected in life style, Mr Forman claimed that there are marked differences in the character of the parishes – Aspley Guise and Aspley Heath being old established villages compared with Woburn Sands where there has been recent development of quite a different nature. The existing boundary line is no impediment to community life in the three parishes.

On the effective operation of local government services, Aspley Guise and Aspley Heath are both considered to have adequate financial resources to support villages as separate local government units with their own parish councils.

Rateable values are as follows

Aspley Guise £303,835
Aspley Heath £87,276

Transfer to Bucks would result in a loss of rateable value of £391,111 and a penny rate product to the district of £3,690

The Council considers it essential that Hutton Court is not lost to the people of Aspley Guise, Aspley Heath and the catchment area in neighbouring parishes within mid Bedfordshire. (There is in fact no reason in law why mid Bedfordshire should not continue to own and use the sheltered accommodation at Hutton Court if the area was transferred to Milton Keynes).

When the boundary was reviewed by the Local Government Commission in the early 1960's no substantial changes were proposed. No problems have since arisen and no proposals for change have been made in the intervening 20 years.

In conclusion:

- (i) the District does not wish to see any change in the boundary. It is not possible to identify a better and more acceptable arrangement
- (ii) it is abundantly clear that the wish of local inhabitants is against change
- (iii) if it is decided that the 3 parishes should be in one county, then the district is strongly of the opinion that Woburn Sands should be transferred to Bedfordshire.

Mr Forman referred to paragraph 3 of the Commission's letter of the 27 May, 1987 indicating that the present boundary divides properties. this apparently refers to three areas and the following comments were made on each area:

a. **Swallowfield School and Playing Field/Playground**

The Commission is in error here as the playing field and playground belong to the Woburn Sands Parish Council and therefore the boundary could be stated to be ideal at this point.

b. **Properties in the area between Weathercock Lane and Station Road**

Again the Boundary Commission is in error as the boundary runs along the existing footpath and therefore follows a well defined area.

c. **Properties behind Downham Road**

The boundary of this area appears to run very close to the end of the rear garden of properties and is considered to insignificant in the context of the current review in terms of changes necessary or desirable in the interest of effective and convenient local government.

In view of the above the District Council considers that the Commissions statement in paragraph 3 of their letter of the 27 May 1987, that "..... the boundary divides properties....." is unjustified.

Councillor Fiona Chapman – Mid Bedfordshire District Council, and Chairman of Fulbrook School Governors – the ratepayers do not want change. There have been no complaints about boundary, there are no problems, this view is helped on both sides of the boundary. Does not accept that it would be possible to achieve change in Education without detriment. There are non-state schools on the Bedfordshire side of the boundary that did not wish to join Milton Keynes. There is no wish in the Aspley to become a suburb of Milton Keynes.

Councillor Brown, Mid Bedfordshire District, supported view expressed on behalf of Mid Bedfordshire Council. 26 years in the parish. If it is necessary for 3 parishes to join in one county, then it should be Bedfordshire. It is basically a rural area and fits more naturally into the pattern of practice in Mid Bedfordshire.

Councillor Russel, Mid Bedfordshire District, Leader of Council, supported view expressed by Bedfordshire County Council. Stressed importance of planning regime and believed Beds approach to this particular area was most appropriate.

Mr Peter Freeman, Chief Executive, Mid Bedfordshire District, claimed there many advantages for the area remaining within the district – there is no urban centre of population – members and officers are sensitive to the variations in need and attitude of a series of communities with individual characteristics but working together as an integral part of a family group. The different communities did not squabble amongst themselves but responded to the lead and services provided by the district.

Mr Pettigrew – Head of Legal and Administrative Services, Milton Keynes Borough Council, the present position of the Borough is expressed in the following resolution of its Policy and Resources Committee:-

“That notwithstanding the earlier observations, the council recognise that Aspley Guise, Aspley Heath and Woburn Sands do form an integral community and should be within one county, therefore the council would wish to see the views of local residents taken into account, by a single referendum of local electors of the communities as a whole, as to which county this should be”

Mr Pettigrew referred to the original submission by Milton Keynes which he contended supported the view now offered as to the inter-dependence of the three areas. There is a single community sharing facilities and interests common to the whole. The location of the churches and the spread of recreational facilities support this view.

Views had been obtained from some of the major services covering the area and are summarised below.

Buckinghamshire Ambulance Service

Mutual assistance agreements exist between the Beds Bucks services. Whilst it would be tidier for the whole of Woburn Sands to fall in one county, the divides are no uncommon and create no major problem. (This response appears to be based on the misconception that Woburn Sands Parish is divided by the county boundaries).

Anglian Water

The existing county boundary does not present operation problem for the water services.

Sewage effluent arrangements would be unaffected by any boundary change. Some adjustment would be necessary to existing Agency Arrangements with the Borough of the District.

Department of Health and Social Security (Milton Keynes located at Bletchley)

The office does not normally provide a service for anyone living in Bedfordshire. Occasionally a resident of Woburn Sands submits a claim in the wrong office. These are quickly passed on with little inconvenience. If the county boundary is changes it is likely the DHSS boundary would change accordingly. The staffing implications would not be of great significance. Ease of access to both Bedford and Bletchley is reasonable.

British Gas (Eastern)

British Gas supply all three parishes and there is no administrative boundary. Additional administrative effort arises in connection with public utility street works and street work in generally where duplication of notices occurs adjacent to the current Beds/Bucks boundary with Woburn Sands. This can lead to confusion.

Buckinghamshire Family Practitioner Committee

In the majority of cases general practitioners are responsible to the Family Practitioner Committee in the area where the majority of their patients reside and usually this is within one county. There are exceptions, Woburn Sands is one. The practice is in Bucks, the majority of

patients reside in Beds. The demand for services outside the existing county boundary in this area does not cause the Committee any problems.

Milton Keynes Health Authority

The present county boundary does not reflect acute service provision in the Woburn Sands/Aspley Guise/Aspley Heath area. Health service boundaries rarely coincide with county boundaries. Nevertheless, community services in Milton Keynes are organised on the basis of the county boundary. An arrangement is currently in force with North Beds Health Authority at the Woburn Sands practice. This provides for community nursing staff to be based at the practice (which is within Milton Keynes Health Authority) to treat nearby Bedfordshire residents.

Patients using the services of the Woburn Sands Health Centre:-

Patients in Bedfordshire	5,382
“ “ Buckinghamshire	3,269
	8,651
Children under 5 in Bedfordshire	254
“ “ “ “ Buckinghamshire.	238
Over 65s in Bedfordshire	898
“ “ “ Buckinghamshire	468

The major problem caused by anomalies in the boundary relate to the method of Health Authority funding. Resource allocations are made to the authority based upon catchment population. No funds identified for work for across the county border. It is felt that a review of the existing boundary would be useful, on the basis that the provision of services and the allocation of funds could be made more appropriately.

Thames Valley Police

The present county boundary between Woburn Sands, Aspley Guise and Aspley Heath are totally artificial. The boundaries do not have any practical effect on police coverage of this area. Major incidents in the area do affect both forces and liaison is very good.

The public are to an extent at a loss as to the county boundaries and Milton Keynes police officers often get requests for assistance from residents in Bedfordshire. No doubt Bedfordshire polices are similarly approached by residents from Buckinghamshire.

It would make more sense if all those communities were in the same country. Woburn Sands is closely linked to Milton Keynes and the latest development is in the south-east flank towards Woburn Sands.

Buckinghamshire Fire Service.

The majority of fire cover for the area is supplied by Bucks. as call out arrangements are based on British Telecom Exchange arrangements and the majority of telephones in the Aspleys are linked to the Milton Keynes Exchange in Bucks. Brigade would continue to provide first call out cover whatever change was made in the county boundary.

Buckinghamshire Social Services Department

Any change would only have a marginal impact. There are no particular difficulties caused by the existing boundary

In concluding Mr Pettigrew offered 3 comments:

- (i) Woburn Sands and the two Aspleys have grown as one community. It would make sense to have an individual referendum of the whole electorate with the simple options of (i) do nothing (ii) minor adjustment (iii) major change.
- (ii) Possible electoral implications
 - (a) a move into Milton Keynes would add some 2,000 to an existing ward of 8,300 making an electorate of 10,000+ (largest existing ward is 13,000)
 - (b) the three parishes combined would give an electorate of some 3,700 – 4,000
 - (c) if the railway was taken as a possible boundary, 350 residents in the parish of Woburn Sands could transfer into the parish of Wavendon
 - (d) sheltered housing is not a significant issue. The Borough Council has its own stock.

Since the meeting Mr Pettigrew has indicated that the total rateable value of the borough of Milton Keynes is £29,500,000, the parish of Woburn Sands is £486,386.

County Councillor Pam Bolton, Milton Keynes East County Council, Division of Buckinghamshire County.

The ward includes Woburn Sands. referred to the recent town council questionnaire (details appear late in the report) and claimed that it demonstrated very strong opposition to boundary changes.

If, however, the view persists that the present boundary is unsatisfactory and that in the interests of efficient and convenient local government they should be administered by one authority then that authority should be in Buckinghamshire.

Mrs Bolton then listed the services and facilities available either through Milton Keynes Borough or Buckinghamshire County Council for residents in Woburn Sands that could easily and readily be extended to the two Aspleys. She compared the virtues of Milton Keynes in terms of access and facilities with the alleged problems of congestion in Bedford.

The opinion was offered that the Buckinghamshire Education Authority solution to anticipated difficulties of transfer is like to be acceptable to parents in Woburn Sands.

In spite of her advocacy of the case for a single community located in Milton Keynes, Mrs Bolton said she accepted the opinion expressed by the inhabitants of Woburn Sands that the boundary should remain unchanged for the present.

If, however, this is not accepted, then she asked that consideration should be given to using the M1 between junctions 14 and 15 as a boundary line. This had already been done in straightening the boundary by an exchange between the parish of Wavendon in Milton Keynes and Holcote and Salford in Mid Bedfordshire. The new boundary line could then follow the A507, cross the fields between Aspley Guise and Husborne Crawley, cross the A5130, and rejoin the Buckinghamshire boundary at Little Bucknell. (this should be Brickhill) this it was claimed would have the advantage of bringing the A421 link road from Junction 13 wholly into Buckinghamshire.

Adjourned 12.55 : resumed 1.45.

Mr Neville Wallace, Weathercock Lane, submission on behalf of Aspley guise Parish Council.

Arguments already advanced by the parish still stand. Aim now is to bring home to Commission strength and extent of local feeling against change.

Withdrawal of original proposals welcome. Uncertainty and anxiety should be removed. A permanent solution is required. Best answer no change – any proposal for parish boundary adjustment would be flawed.

The preferred option of status quo would

- (i) preserve original and intrinsic character of village with Green Belt protection;
- (ii) have overwhelming support from all 3 communities;
- (iii) mean no difficult adjustment or repercussions on services;
- (iv) facilitate continuation of existing satisfactory arrangements for sharing services.

The second option would be for all 3 communities in Bedfordshire.

Historically, the Aspleys are rooted in Bedfordshire. A majority of the total population is already in Bedfordshire, and a large part of the area is in that country.

The Education Service is Bedfordshire based
Mid Bedfordshire is a rural district
Ecclesiastically, the community is linked to Bedfordshire.

If this solution was adopted, it would be important that all three parishes should remain separate and preserve their character and identity.

Against a Buckinghamshire solution the following points were made:-

- (a) community would become a satellite of Milton Keynes;
- (b) the 'village' nature of Aspley Guise could be destroyed
- (c) important traditional links with Bedfordshire would be lost
- (d) salient into Beds could provide a precedent for further expansion
- (e) there is no affinity with North Bucks
- (f) danger of expansion of Milton Keynes designated area development beyond border of 'new town' without Public Inquiry Procedure.

Commenting on earlier submission Mr Wallace questioned the relevance of Milton Keynes shops and job facilities to community life in the three parishes and to the delivery of efficient and convenient local government services.

Milton Keynes had not demonstrated any need for changes and seemed to support the view that the three communities work together very successfully as they are. Mrs Bolton had expressed the worst fears of the Aspley Guise Parish Council in envisaging a Milton Keynes satellite.

Mrs Alice Crampit, (should be Crampin) Aspley Guise Parish Council

Spoke against change in the historical context on the grounds that it is relevant to the two criteria of the wishes of local inhabitants and the pattern of community life.

In essence the message was that Aspley Guise has a record and performance that gives it a clear and distinguishable identity rooted in the past but relevant to the life style and aspirations of the present. Stress was placed on the nexus of relationships developed within Bedfordshire covering all activities be they social, cultural or regulatory, that county wide organisations, both statutory and voluntary provide. There is a framework of organisation and pattern of life that should not be disrupted with strong reasons. Change without such reasons will destabilise a community.

Dr Ian Alston, Chairman, Aspley Guise Parish Council

Welcomed the decision to hold the meeting. Stressed the strength of feeling for the status quo. Formally submitted the results of a survey of electors of Aspley Guise and Aspley Heath. (Copy attached – Appendix E). The response rate for the two parishes was 63%. 97% of those responding were against any part of either parish transferring to Bucks. 38% were in favour of locating the three communities in one county. 60% against. If the three parishes are to be placed in once county, 90% favoured Beds.

Mrs Stella Tofield, member of Aspley Heath Parish Council

On the evidence of the survey the overwhelming wish of the parishioners is to remain in Bedfordshire. Cultural and social links are with Bedfordshire, not Milton Keynes and North

Bucks. Planned changes for the development of Milton Keynes will further distinguish that area from the rural communities of Woburn Sands and the two Aspleys. If there has got to be change, Woburn Sands should be located in Bedfordshire.

Mrs B McEwan, Aspley Guise Women's Institute

The Institute is affiliated to the Bedfordshire Federation of Women's Groups. They are part of a county structure and grouped with Husborne Crawley, Ridgemont and Aspley Heath/Woburn Sands. If the boundary is withdrawn separating the Aspleys from Bedfordshire, this could separate the Institute from the county organisation.

Rev. Richard Huband, Rector of Aspley Guise

The boundary of the diocese of St Albans and the diocese of Oxford runs between Wavendon and Woburn Sands. All of Bedfordshire is in the diocese of St Albans. Woburn Sands is in the unusual situation of being in the diocese of St Albans but in the county of Bucks. If there is to be a change from the diocesan point of view, logic would include Woburn Sands within the county of Bedfordshire. The same logic applies to the parish boundary situation.

As a parent Mr Huband stated a firm preference for Fulbrook remaining within the Bedfordshire education system.

A letter was submitted from the Bishop of Bedford expressing support for a solution that reflected the strongly held community view against change and his conviction that bureaucratic tidiness should never override social and community needs and the strongly expressed views of the people concerned.

Mr Alan Gilmour, Headmaster, Fulbrook Middle School

Reiterated the resource arguments – stressed the integrated nature of the Bedfordshire 'pyramid' system. Highlighted the uncertainty that would be caused for schools, parents and pupils on any transfer into Bucks even if the '9-13' age range is maintained for the time being, because of the longer term proposals. Submitted an analysis of the present distribution of pupils, staff resources and range of curriculum (copy attached – appendix F)

A questionnaire to parents in the week ending 11th September had resulted in 404 out of 423 parents responding, a 95.5% return – 94.3% had said they were in favour of Fulbrook remaining a Bedfordshire Middle School.

(The Government's proposals for education change in both imposing a national curriculum and increasing parental choice add to the uncertainties and could be used as an argument against other change at the present time without overriding reasons.)

Mrs D Lester, Head, Husborne Crawley Lower School and Mr Jeff Darwin, Head, Ridgemont Lower School.

Both spoke as to the collaboration that exists within the Bedfordshire 'pyramid' system, its importance to co-ordinated curriculum development and the significance of Fulbrook Middle School. It's removal from the Bedfordshire system would create particular difficulties for the

'feeder' lower schools, remaining in the county. The established pattern of liaison and positive collaboration should not be discarded.

Mrs Lynda McLean, Head, Swallowfield Lower School

- (i) argued against change on the grounds that school has different culture to that of Buckinghamshire;
- (ii) is an integrated part of Bedfordshire system;
- (iii) there are different capitation rates;
- (iv) the school meals service which is well used would be reduced;
- (v) domestic and support staff could be put in jeopardy;
- (vi) the 'in service' professional links with Bedfordshire are understood and work well;
- (vii) transfer would be against parental wishes. 336 questionnaires had been distributed to parents, 291 had been returned (87%), 2999 or 97% were in favour of remaining in Bedfordshire, only 1 expressed support for the Buckinghamshire option.

Mrs June Banks, Governor, Swallowfield School

New school resourced on basis of 5-9 year old intake. A change to Buckinghamshire could result in a loss of as much as a third of teaching staff.

School only just stabilised after a 7 year period of reorganisation, further change now would be stressful.

Wherever county boundary located both Swallowfield and Fulbrook will serve communities on both sides of the boundary. In this situation best choice is to follow preferred parental option and remain in Bedfordshire system.

Mrs Jan Brown, Swallowfield , PTFA

Quoted the results of the parental questionnaire referred to by Mrs McLean as an argument against change.

She claimed

- (i) Bedfordshire has a better pupil teacher ratio than Buckinghamshire 1-29 for first 150 pupils as against 1-31 for first 216 in Buckinghamshire;
- (ii) loss of staff would result from change;
- (iii) an inferior school meals service would be offered;
- (iv) support for the status quo extends beyond present parents to potential parents and friends of the existing school

- (v) change would cause disruption to children's education

Mr Charles Wellis, parent, Aspley Guise

3 children in the system. 1 handicapped, no cause for change. Wished his children to progress through known Bedfordshire system.

Miss Jill Burleigh, Head, Woburn Lower School and Mrs Jean Billington, Head, Aspley Guise Lower School

Both spoke as to the interdependence of the 'pyramid' system, the quality of the collaboration and cooperation at present achieved with the Fulbrook Middle School. Any change will create undesirable and unnecessary uncertainty for pupils, parents and staff.

Mrs D Wadley, parent, 1 child at Swallowfield

Children do understand there are problems, uncertainty is an undesirable condition, children are concerned. Uncertainty should be resolved as soon as possible in favour of status quo.

At this point Mr Pullen, County Secretary and Solicitor, Buckinghamshire, confirmed that change in arrangements for lower schools was inevitable if Fulbrook transfers to Buckinghamshire. How this would be managed has still to be settled.

Mr D S Stewart, Planning Officer, Mid Bedfordshire District Council

Asked to indicate any difference or distinction between planning policy and practice for the Aspleys and Woburn Sands. He is new to the area but his understanding of policy of both Bedfordshire County Council and Mid Bedfordshire District is to restrict 'sprawl', there are no proposals in contemplation for growth and it would be policy to restrain any growth. The Aspleys have the 'protection' of Green Belt status, not aware of proposals for development in Woburn Sands. Both Bedfordshire and Bucks are participants in SERPLAN, the group which advises local authorities and DoE on planning issues and strategies for the south east.

Mr Bob Franklin, Vice Chairman, Aspley Guise Village Hall Management Committee

Spoke generally as to the strength of the local community feeling, the fact that there is already an integrated approach to the provision and use of facilities that is not inhibited or marred by existing boundaries. Change is unwanted, unnecessary and could be damaging.

As to the village hall, it presents a monument to community effort meeting community needs and it has responded to changing demands. It is available subject to priorities to all.

Mr R K Job, representing the Bedfordshire Association of Parish Councils and Bedfordshire Rural Amenity Council

Referred to strength of the community movement in Bedfordshire. Expressed the view that unless there are persuasive and overriding reasons to the contrary, the wishes of the people should guide decision taking. In this case they are clear.

Mrs Doreen Brown, representing the Thursday Club

The function of the club is to respond to the needs of the lonely and the elderly. Hutton Court provides a base and a focal point. There is uncertainty over the future and this is not in the best interests of either the Committee or their clients. The anxiety should be removed.

Michael Ekins, Aspley Guise resident since 1954, retired Civil Servant

Wished to correct impression that the community was only five miles from Milton Keynes shopping centre – it is significantly more.

Within Milton Keynes District there are a number of widely separated and distinct rural communities, e.g. the parishes of Bow Brickhill, Wavendon and Milton Keynes. In contrast Woburn Sands is integrated with the rest of the community. The three communities work closely together and have achieved a harmonious working arrangement with overwhelming results. There is no wish to change. Possibility of confining Milton Keynes to new city area mentioned as possibility. A firm decision called for.

Mrs Jenny Haynes, resident, Aspley Guise, lives on Milton Keynes boundary

3 communities live in harmony. Anomalies in boundary are irrelevant. There should be no more trauma. Limitation to designated area not possible because writ (?remit) of borough extends beyond.

The meeting closed at 4.25pm

7.00pm. The meeting was opened by reference to the earlier proceedings, to the purpose of the meeting and that if necessary a decision would be taken at 9.30pm as to whether to adjourn to a later date.

Dr A Bassindale, Chairman, Woburn Sands Town Council

Present boundary is fuzzy and it was for that reason Woburn Sands had suggested small changes. Because of high degree of interest shown it was decided to canvas views of its 1,730 electors. This achieved a 43% response (740 replies). 78% want no change at all. The remaining 29% were divided between minor and major change. A second question asked for an expression of preference between Bucks and Beds. In Woburn Sands 75% wished to stay in Bucks. 35% favoured a transfer to Beds.

4 points made from an analysis of comments received with answers:

- (i) parents with school children strongly prefer Bedfordshire Schools
- (ii) pensioners use Milton Keynes facilities and do not wish to lose concession associated with Bucks/Milton Keynes such as bus passes.
- (iii) long term residents have an emotional association with Bucks that they do not wish to lose;

- (iv) many residents have chosen to live in Buckinghamshire

Present position after survey and extensive discussion is that town council is against change. Any change, however minor, would be both disruptive and divisive.

Case against change:

- (i) large majority in all 3 communities strongly against any change
- (ii) pattern of community life in Woburn Sands is not fixed. Large new development in Wavendon now in progress. This may include a new secondary school which would be both convenient and acceptable in the future. Milton Keynes is still growing and new facilities may be used by Woburn Sands residents. Any change now would be untimely;
- (iii) Woburn Sands, Aspley Guise and Aspley Heath all serve neighbouring villages in different ways. changes now would affect far more than 3 communities under review. The 3 communities have grown up in different counties and a complex infrastructure related to these differences has evolved.
- (iv) unscrambling existing assets would be complicated. In this situation, will of the people which is clear, should prevail. No change, at least until next review in 10 years time.

Mr Hugh Wormsley, Chairman, governors, Aspley Guise Lower School

Stressed resource implications of any change in present arrangement. Change could lead to loss of pupils, this would be detrimental. There could be a knock on effect on Fulbrook. Change not justified.

Mr C W Smith, Aspley Guise resident, political agent at both branch and ward level

3 way choice, no change, part of Bedfordshire into Bucks; part of Bucks into Beds. Concerned at any integration that results in South West Beds becoming odd man out in Bucks. Changes could have knock on effect that might result in electoral distortion. Personal belief that some present supporters of change advocating 2nd best solution because they believe that as Commission has already proposed some change then changes will be made to save face whatever views of local people. this should be resisted and no change contemplated for 10 years.

Mr Allen Gilman, Headmaster, Fulbrook Middle School and Aspley Guise Resident

Supported view that although Aspley Guise Lower School may not be included in a solution that involved transfer of part of Aspleys to bucks, it would be adversely affected by uncertainties and by differences between Bucks and Beds age ranges for middle and upper school.

Mr Blake, Aspley Guise resident

2 years of uncertainty. Time it was resolved. Referred to contrast between Bucks and Beds with particular reference to public transport, sport and social cohesion. In Bucks there is a north/south divide and area north of Aylesbury out on a limb. This is important in assessing education implications. In Beds there is a well-founded pattern of inter-county events at present part of wider community life involving the Aspleys.

Mrs May Baker, Borough Councillor, Woburn Sands Ward.

Elderly people do not wish transfer into Beds because of anticipated loss of facilities and amenities, e.g. transport passes (best figure available between 100/200.) Trend towards larger school and questions of parental choice create greater uncertainty. Administration should be convenience of people. No change for time being.

Mrs Brenda Eagles, Aspley Guise resident

The area forms a close knot community. Important local facilities are based on understanding of existing arrangement, e.g. Brownie Pack at Swallowfield Lower School serves a wider area. Services for disabled afford another example. Any change would lead to need for reassessment. There should be no change.

Mr Elkins, resident Aspley Guise – referred to contribution during daytime meeting. Since then had checked distance between Aspley Guise and Milton Keynes shopping centre. It is over 8 miles, not 5 claimed.

Mr Michael Redding, resident, Aspley Guise

Spoke in favour of Bedfordshire system. Thought should be left as they are. If change is still contemplated, there should be a referendum first.

Mrs Dudley, resident, Aspley Guise

Proposals for change are thin end of wedge. Any extensions of Milton Keynes territory would lead to devastation of countryside.

Mrs Gwen Oates

How wonderful if only commission would listen to people. There is no case for dividing community. It should be left in peace. No change

Mr Collins, Aspley Heath

Very strong local loyalties should be recognised and maintained.

Mr R Millington resident, Woburn Sands

Spoke as to the importance of maintaining the quality and character of the rural communities. Needs of city are different. No change.

In the absence of further contributions at this state, I reminded audience that this was a Statutory Review. That Milton Keynes had in the first place responded to an invitation from the Commission. I asked whether there was anybody present who wished to speak in favour of change either major or minor.

There were no takers for advocating change, but Mr Peter Freeman, Chief Executive, Mid Bedfordshire District Council made the point that the Milton Keynes proposals were made without any prior consultation with any of the other interests affected. (sound familiar)

The meeting closed at 8.5pm.

I would like to record my appreciation for the help given by:

- (i) the Aspley Guise Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee for the arrangements made for staging the meeting and recording the attendances, and
- (ii) the contributors for their constructive participation in the two meetings.

Assessment, Conclusions and Recommendations

The starting point for any proposal for change must be the test of effective and convenient government. This relates not only to the quality and cost of services but also to the manner in which the services are received and perceived by the communities they are intended to serve. The wishes of the local inhabitants are an important factor in assessing a case for change, they are, however, only one factor and very naturally tend to be based on past practice and experience.

In the follow paragraphs I offer my assessment of the service delivery situation, advance a view on the 'community scene' and the strength of local feeling as expressed in correspondence and at the meeting and comment on possible approaches in boundary realignment.

Education is the service that has generated most feeling. There is a clearly expressed preference for existing practice as part of the Bedfordshire system. The evidence indicates that change would cause initial inconvenience to parents, pupils and staff. Although Buckinghamshire has offered to accommodate the Fulbrook Middle School age range until the 1990s when the Walnut tree new school is due to be built, there is no easy answer to the problems of the Bedfordshire Lower Schools at present working to Fulbrook as part of the Bedfordshire system. In the longer term the Walnut Tree development could provide a more attractive option to Woburn Sands parents than the existing arrangement. The Government proposals for improved parental choice and the chance of opting out of the state system may also be relevant. There is, however, too much uncertainty attached to these factors for them to weigh against the evidence that any change now that transfer Fulbrook and Swallowfield into the Buckinghamshire system would in the immediate future anyway reduce the effectiveness and convenience of the education service.

Mid Bedfordshire District Council has claimed that the loss of Hutton court would mean that the nearest sheltered housing accommodation for the Aspley Guise and Aspley Heath areas would be some distance away at Marston or Cranfield. This need not be the case because tere

is no reason why the district Council should not continue to own and use that and indeed any other housing accommodation affected by a bound change.

It has been suggested that the 'character' of the area overall is more likely to be preserved under the planning regime of Mid Bedfordshire District and the Bedfordshire County council, than that of Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire. The present policies and practices of all authorities are to maintain the integrity of the area and there is no reason to believe that Woburn Sands and the Aspleys if they were to transfer to Bucks would be at risk of urbanisation through the development of Milton Keynes, at least in the immediate future. The fact that Mid Bedfordshire is a basically rural authority composed of a number of small rural communities may mean that the overall view of the authority is more sympathetic to and in tune with the wishes and needs of rural communities in development control matters. This could have a bearing on the response on any long-term pressures that might develop for expansion within Milton Keynes. The natural wish to protect and preserve has to be tested in terms of structure plan policies and in the southeast the overall regional strategy.

In my view planning policy and practice would be more effectively and conveniently administered if the whole area was within one district, but it is not a major issue because the existing arrangements are understood and accepted by the local authorities concerned and also the local communities.

Fire cover is a present provided jointly by Bucks and Beds with Buckinghamshire providing most of the first call cover. This would continue to be the case what-ever changes were made in the county boundary.

Effective cross border arrangement exist for the police service. The extent of the need for these arrangements might be reduced by a boundary adjustment but there would still have to joint cross boundary operations. There is little evidence to indicate that the present provision is not acceptable in terms of effective and convenient service provision.

There is at present some degree of overlap of responsibilities for highways as indicated by British Gas. This gives rise to additional administrative work where duplications of notices are necessary for public utility street works on the Bucks/Beds border. there is also some confusion in the road network. This could be reduced by boundary adjustment. It is not, however, a problem that has any significant bearing on effective and convenient delivery.

Amenity and recreation facilities, public and private are shared throughout the area and will continue to be shared where the boundary is drawn.

Social services is another activity that is not greatly concerned as to where the boundary is drawn.

Non local government services could be marginally affected if the boundary was redrawn, eg. the funding arrangements for the Health Service.

Public transport is still undergoing a period of change. There appears to be an adequate network in and out of the area extending to both Milton Keynes and Bedford. The District and Borough council policies on concessionary fares are different and if Woburn Sands became part of Mid Bedfordshire, up to 200 pensioners would experience a reduction in the

concession facility. Not a major matter in service terms but a point of concern to the individuals who would be affected.

Resources at Parish level are adequate for viable parish services. At district and county level any boundary adjustment that resulted in a movement of rateable hereditaments limited to the three parishes would be minumus. Mid Bedfordshire rates are lower than the Milton Keynes level. This can be attributed to different levels of service provision, e.g. the provision of free transport for pensioners. Some concern was expressed by ratepayers in the Aspleys at the prospect of higher rate bills. In any view of the financial situation the joker in the pack is the proposed “community charge” and the national standard business rate. It is not possible to assess how these changes will effect the funding of services.

Electoral changes would be necessary, if any major boundary change is made. These would need to be settled by reference to the overall balance at both district and county level. Mr C W Smith did express the opinion that the area is more ‘at home’ in the southeast Bedfordshire environment.

On the evidence supplied by Milton Keynes other services such as British Gas and Health see some marginal benefit to be gained if the boundary anomalies are removed, Milton Keynes Health District is funded on the basis of its catchment population and no funds are provided to deal with work arising from cases crossing the country boundary. This seems more a case for reviewing health authority funding than for adjusting local authority boundaries.

Turning to the pattern of community life although each of the three parishes that make up the area has its own history, identity and claim to independence, the whole makes up a single community that has the quality and character of an attractive small town. The amenities and facilities of the area are already integrated and shared. Woburn Sands High Street provides a local shopping centre that serves all three parishes. The inter-dependence and existing togetherness of the three communities makes it very difficult to suggest a line that does not embrace all three communities.

Milton Keynes has suggested that the three communities should be consulted through a referendum. In fact a substantial body of the electorate has already expressed an opinion through the Polls conducted by the Aspley Parishes and Woburn Sands town Council. Of those expressing an opinion the great majority are against change. If change is to be imposed then not surprisingly a large majority of the electors in the Aspleys opt for the Bedfordshire solution (1,296 out of 1,433 responses) and slightly more surprisingly a significant minority of Woburn Sands electors favoured a transfer to Bedfordshire (259 out of 740 responses). The two polls together show 1,555 in favour of a Bedfordshire solution out of a total of 2,030 replies. This has to be seen in the context of total electoral rolls of 4,010. I see this as persuasive evidence of local views on the particular point and not think it necessary to conduct a referendum as suggested by Milton Keynes Borough. It has, however, to be judged in the even more strongly expressed view against any change. Local opinion and the local authorities concerned are strongly against change.

The present boundary is difficult to justify in that it does not reflect the pattern of community activity, it is not related to any natural division and it does have a marginal effect on the delivery and practices of some services.

There would, in my opinion, be some sense in locating all three communities in one local authority area. Given the importance of Education, the rural nature of the community and local views, this would be Mid Bedfordshire. The railway line would provide a natural boundary as suggested by Wavendon Parish. I have to set against this:

- (i) the strongly expressed public feeling against change;
- (ii) the fact that existing arrangements give rise to little inconvenience and few complaints
- (iii) there would be some marginal loss of benefits to some residents if Woburn Sands transferred to Mid Bedfordshire e.g. travel concessions.
- (iv) there would be no obvious major improvement in the effectiveness and convenience of service delivery;
- (v) non of the local authorities are now advocating any change.

On balance, I therefore recommend no change should be made. Subject to a settlement on the basis of the facts of any minor adjustment necessary to resolve the apparent anomalies referred to in the Commission's letter of May 1987, and commented on by Mid Bedfordshire District as reported above.

W U Jackson
Assistant Commissioner.

Annex B = Consultation and Publicity (sets out the process)

Annex C = Comments on the Proposals and Interim Decision to make no proposals (invites comments on the Interim decision to make no proposals)

Annex D = List of principle authorities and parish councils

Annex E = Draft Notice of Interim Decision

Annex F = missing

