

PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR CHANGES TO THE BIRCHANGER/STANSTED BOUNDARY

NAME AND ADDRESS	RESPONSE RECEIVED	COMMENTS/PROPOSALS RECEIVED	VOTING FOR	ACTUAL PARISH
Birchanger Parish Council	<p>20/9/10</p> <p>29/9/10</p>	<p><i>Letter from Birchanger Parish Clerk</i> “There are currently nine councillors in the parish of Birchanger. This is in agreement with Council guidelines. With regard to the review of boundaries: Birchanger Parish Council is broadly in agreement with the boundary line proposed by Stansted Parish Council. Informal comments received by councillors suggest that the residents of the Forest Hall Park estate appear generally to identify with Stansted rather than Birchanger. Given the proximity of this part of Birchanger to Stansted, it would seem appropriate for it to fall within the boundaries of Stansted. Maintaining a boundary along the mid-line of Forest Hall Road would help prevent coalescence of the two villages and so satisfy the widely held views of residents in the main part of Birchanger who wish for Birchanger to remain as a distinct settlement. The only alteration to the proposed boundary line that we would propose is to retain Forest Hall within the parish of Birchanger. Residents in this part have long expressed a wish to remain within Birchanger.”</p> <p><i>Further email from Birchanger Parish Clerk</i> “Following Birchanger Parish Council's response to the boundary review, we have now received feedback from residents in the central part of Birchanger village. There is a significant concern that our parish boundaries are continually being eroded and that if this continues then the parish may be lost altogether. With this in mind, we would propose that the area between Forest Hall Road and Parsonage Lane moves into Birchanger (see attached map), with the mid-line of these roads as the boundary. Previously we had suggested that just the Forest Hall cottages should remain within Birchanger. This new boundary change would have the advantage of ensuring that the residents of the cottages at Forest Hall are well within the parish boundary, rather than being an outpost; it would help Birchanger maintain it's rural character; would help prevent coalescence with Stansted and finally, but importantly, it would help to allay the fears of residents that their community will vanish altogether”</p>		<p>NO CHANGE IN NUMBER OF CLLRS</p> <p>IN AGREEMENT WITH STANSTED PC REGARDING PROPOSED BOUNDARY EXCEPT THAT FOREST HALL BE RETAINED WITHIN BIRCHANGER</p>
Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council	30/9/10	<p><i>Letter from Cllr Sell – Stansted Parish Council</i> “The Parish Council has requested a change to the Birchanger/Stansted boundary. We believe it to be in the best interests of all the residents of Foresthall Park that they are served by one Parish Council namely Stansted. We believe that this has the support of Birchanger Parish Council and of many residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current boundary is haphazard and illogical. One third of the Forest Hall Development is within Stansted Parish and the remainder within Birchanger Parish. Walson Way where St. Mary's Primary School will be relocated is divided between the two parishes. The old boundary between Birchanger and Stansted no longer reflects the gradual extension of Stansted village southwards from the historic core of the village around Lower Street and Chapel Hill. • The current boundary is confusing for residents. They receive both the Birchanger and Stansted Parish magazines. Residents have also received a welcome pack from Stansted Parish Council. This has been done in association with Churches Together. There may well be some legitimate confusion amongst residents as to 		<p>Transfer to Stansted</p>

		<p>which Parish Council represents them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We believe it would be of benefit to the community of Foresthall Park that a coherent and cohesive boundary is established. This would better reflect community identities. Please see the attached map for our preferred boundary line which is highlighted in green. • If, for some reason, the area of land immediately west of the developed area of Foresthall Park, and east of Pines Hill, is not brought into the parish of Stansted, then the boundary should be drawn as highlighted in pink, ensuring that bridleway 24 falls within the parish of Stansted Mountfitchet. • Stansted rather than Birchanger village is the natural community that residents of Foresthall Park look to. We have a range of facilities, Doctors Surgery, Dentists, Shops (Tesco's opens November 2010), Restaurants, railway station etc. Stansted also has thriving village societies such as the gardening club, local history and the Women's Institute. The Secretary of Stansted WI is a resident of Foresthall Park. • Fundamentally, there is a powerful economic case for having one Parish Council serving this development. There are large areas of open spaces for which Parish Councils will have the responsibility of maintenance. In addition, there are several play areas currently spread across parish boundaries. In order to achieve economies of scale it is important that the whole estate comes under the responsibility of one Parish Council. • Stansted Parish Council has the necessary expertise and resources to effectively cater for the needs of the residents of Foresthall Park. We were one of the first councils in the District to achieve Quality Council status. We have been reaccredited. In terms of resources we have an experienced full time clerk who is assisted by a part time administrative assistant. In addition, there is a full time litter man and a part-time handy man. The Council has an active Open Spaces Committee whose chair lives at the Caretakers House at the Mountfitchet Mathematics and Computing College. The Council recognises that its existing accommodation is limited and we are actively looking at ways in which this can be expanded. • Stansted Parish Council is a proactive council which works hard on behalf of its residents. We are currently completing a Parish Plan which will be shortly submitted to the District Council. • We have a demonstrated commitment to community participation and engagement. We are one of the few Parish Councils in the district which regularly has elections. We have established our own website Stansted.net which gives residents information about the work of the council. The Council pages in Stansted Link provide thorough monthly information about the work of the Parish Council. Our Annual Parish Meeting is always well attended. <p><u>Conclusion</u> It is our view that the boundaries at Foresthall Park cannot, for the reasons cited above be left as they are. The most sensible solution in terms of meeting the needs of its residents is that the entire estate comes under Stansted Parish Council.</p> <p><u>Brook View, Stoney Place and Rochford Close</u> Should a different view be taken by Uttlesford District Council on Foresthall Park, then there are some anomalies which must be rectified. Currently, part of Brook View, and part of properties in Stoney Place and Rochford Close are divided by the parish boundary. These</p>	
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		should be brought entirely within the parish of Stansted Mountfitchet. Thremhall Priory Now that the new A120 has been constructed, it is illogical that Thremhall Priory and Priory Wood continue to lie within our parish. The A120 forms a natural boundary, and we request therefore that the parish boundary be amended to exclude these areas and follow the A120 to the point where it meets the Takeley Parish boundary.”		
Annie Jenkins 4 Felstead Crescent	26/8/10 Telephone	“Just moved in. Thinks village is called Stansted Mountfitchet – no such village as ‘Stansted’, that’s the airport.”	Stansted	Birchanger
Mark and Ann Dawson 3 Peachey Walk	26/8/10 Email	“It would make sense to keep it within the Stansted parish. We are considered within Stansted now, the grass cutting, lighting, police, council tax, local phone numbers for MPs, local services are all within Stansted”	Stansted	Birchanger
Peter Fisher 4 Snow Lane	29/8/10 Email	“As a new resident of Forest Hall Park, I am recently in receipt of your letter concerning the re-drawing of the boundary between Stansted and Birchanger. As requested, I wish to confirm that I identify more with SM”	Stansted	Birchanger
P L Berriman 27 Walson Way	2/9/10 Letter	“Further to your letter regarding the Community Governance Review 2010/11, it is my belief that I live in Stansted Mountfitchet not Birchanger, and it is my wish that that remains the situation. This area of Stansted is linked to Birchanger only by one very narrow lane, all other roads and pathways are undoubtedly with Stansted. Having attended a public meeting regarding the relocation of St Mary’s Primary school, I feel sure that if the school and indeed the doctors surgery are removed from Stansted and handed to Birchanger, leaving Stansted with no such facilities, then mass hysteria will hit the town! Please accept that Forest Hall Park is in Stansted, and if the boundary line is unclear, then surely that position can be accepted without the need for a costly & time consuming review. Indeed, in the current financial climate it would be irresponsible of the council to spend any more money, our money, on this matter.”	Stansted	Birchanger
Elaine and Peter Ballard Broom Hill, Forest Hall Road	8/9/10 Email	“Thank you for informing us of the need to clarify the boundary between Birchanger and Stansted. We have recently moved to our address on Forest Hall Road (Broom Hill CM24 8TS), but we are not part of the new development at Forest Hall Park and are located opposite the Hide and Deecs which is close to the Pesterford Bridge end of the road in a house which dates back over 400 years. We are disappointed that your letter implies that we could become lumped together with a new development and become part of Birchanger parish rather than Stansted. We identify with the address of Stansted, Essex as this is the address that we have just paid a lot of money to live at. We go to the shops in Stansted and also attend the “local” church St. Johns, as well as use the various facilities based there. As far as I know, there is very little in Birchanger to feel that we can identify with. Our children go to school in Bishop’s Stortford, so if we had to be relocated to another parish we would feel more inclined to become part of that. It seems odd to me that the issue of this boundary was not given more consideration earlier when planning permission for the new houses was given and the developers started promoting their houses as being in Stansted, as if this is causing a problem it should have been identified as becoming one sooner. You mention the historic boundary, is it possible for you to let us know whether we do indeed fall within Stansted or Birchanger according to that? With regard to the first stage of the community governance review, I would just confirm that we (a family of four) would prefer to retain the address that we have been using for the past 3 months (and more importantly has been the address of the house for many years before this)	Stansted	Birchanger

		and remain in the parish of Stansted, Essex rather than Birchanger, Herts.”		
Jenny Wraith 7 Peachey Walk	8/9/10 Email	<p>“Having received your letter regarding the proposed discussion of the parish boundary in Foresthall Park, I write because my house (7 Peachey Walk) is very near the assumed parish boundary.</p> <p>I am at present in Birchanger Parish and would like to stay there. I overlook the fields towards Birchanger and feel that I am part of a really rural parish. The walk over the fields to the church is like a step back into the past and is really good. You seem to have been able to decide on a boundary line at the moment as houses on Foresthall Park have been issued with Council Tax bills. Why not stick with this line and avoid having to change your billing system. I can see that the provision of various services could be awkward eg provision of notice boards, dog bins etc but this is not insurmountable.</p> <p>Then there is the question of the money paid in council tax. I can see that both parishes want as much from Foresthall Park as possible. At present we in Birchanger pay less than the Stansted residents. I would guess that very few people realise this. Are you going to tell them this before they are asked to vote? I look forward to the outcome of this process.”</p>	Birchanger	Birchanger
Sue Belo 62 Hampton Road	18/9/10 Email	<p>“Thank you for your letter of August 2010 concerning the parish boundaries on the Foresthall Park estate.</p> <p>I live at 62 Hampton Road, on the north side of the estate and I now understand this to be within the parish of Birchanger. Interestingly, I was told by Bryant at reservation stage that I would be within the parish of Stansted so I was quite surprised given the close location to Stoney Common Road that this was the case.</p> <p>Personally, I feel I am part of Stansted. I try to walk into the village every day, I use the village shops, and I am a member of the library there. From my house it is only a 10 minute walk to the station. Since moving in at the beginning of January, I have only been into Birchanger once and that was when I was taken to the Three Willows by my mother.</p> <p>Assuming that there are practical and financial reasons not to transfer the entire estate to Stansted, it would make sense to me to make the division based on a north/south divide rather than the current east/west one, with Walson Way and its continuation into Reeve Road being the logical boundary.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to express my views.</p>	Stansted	Birchanger
P L Jones Councillor – Stansted Parish Council	21/9/10 Letter	<p>“With regard to the Community Governance Review 2010/11 which is about to take place, I would make the following observations on the parish boundary between Birchanger and Stansted Mountfitchet.</p> <p>The major concern is the splitting of the new estate currently under development at Foresthall Park between the parishes of Birchanger and Stansted Mountfitchet. The premise that the people affected should be asked for their preferred option is a good one.</p> <p>Unfortunately with the development only about 35% complete in terms of occupancy, it is probably too early to determine whether a separate parish council should be established or would receive support. This is probably a debate for the next review.</p> <p>Whatever decision is reached the underlying principle which should be followed is that the government of Foresthall Park at parish level should be as a single entity, ie wholly in Birchanger or wholly in Stansted Mountfitchet.</p> <p>The case for choosing to locate Foresthall Park in Stansted Mountfitchet would appear to be overwhelming on the following grounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographically the estate is attached to Stansted and physically divided from Birchanger. An aerial photograph makes itself evident – in a physical sense to which community Foresthall Park is related. 	Stansted	Stansted

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are few local services in Birchanger so on the test of viability in the provision of easily accessible local services whether shops, pubs, restaurants, chemist, library, adult education, clubs, day centre, leisure centre or youth services, including brownies, cubs and scouts, points only in one direction towards the village of Stansted Mountfitchet. • Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council is a quality council (as is Birchanger) has a full time experienced clerk with assistance and is shortly to enlarge its office accommodation. Already residents are contacting the parish council office. • The proposed move of St Mary's Primary School from St John's Road to Foresthall Park will link the established community to the new. The same may be true of the new Health Centre depending upon the decision, expected shortly from the PCT. • The maintenance of the public spaces and facilities on the new estate will represent a substantial undertaking at parish level. Grasscutting, gardening, play area and equipment maintenance and ponds need a single authority. If the estate is left divided then there will need to be joint parish arrangements in place with the residents given an easy point of reference which most likely would be Stansted. • In terms of access, Essex County Council is working on schemes to improve footpath links into the village of Stansted and negotiations are expected shortly on extending the bus service to the new estate. It would be undesirable to encourage any additional use of Tot Lane into Birchanger. • The Link Magazine, which is published monthly and covers much of the life of the parish of Stansted Mountfitchet, is delivered free of charge to all residents on the Foresthall Park estate. The Birchanger magazine is only delivered to properties which fall within the Birchanger boundary. <p>In conclusion the arguments whether considered in terms of community or geography stack up strongly in favour of enlarging the parish of Stansted Mountfitchet by making the whole of Foresthall Park a part of the parish. At the same time the existing irregularities in the Birchanger/ Stansted Mountfitchet boundary (properties in Brook View/Stoney Common) should be clarified.</p> <p>In terms of representation on Uttlesford District Council, it would be desirable, if possible for Birchanger to retain its independence. The communities are separate and do not overlap. May I thank you for the opportunity to put these views and I look forward, in due course, to hearing the outcome of your deliberations."</p>		
Richard Agius 8 Palmer Close	29/9/10 Email	"I am a new resident of Foresthall Park, I live at the Church Road end of the development. I believe things should be left as they are now. My address is a Stansted address and I use the facilities in the village. I voted there at the last election. I identify more with Stansted than Birchanger where I have driven through only once since I moved here 6 months ago."	Stansted	Stansted
Sue Belo 62 Hampton Road	2/10/10 Email	"Thank you for your reply to my email. I agree that my suggestion of Walson Way/Reeve Road is still an artificial demarcation of the estate. My suggestion was based on there seeming to be an implication that the inclusion of the estate wholly within the Stansted Parish boundary (the most logical conclusion) would be unacceptable. If this is the case then a north/south split would be more logical than an east/west divide."	Stansted	Birchanger