

**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
IN THE UTTLESFORD DISTRICT
PUBLIC CONSULTATION
PUBLICATION OF THE COUNCIL'S PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES
TO THE PARISH BOUNDARY AT BIRCHANGER AND STANSTED
MOUNTFITCHET (FORESTHALL PARK)
AND LITTLE CANFIELD AND TAKELEY (PRIORS GREEN)**

The Council is today publishing proposals for change, or no change, to the parish boundary at the locations listed below, and invites comments from any interested party to be sent to the Democratic and Electoral Services Manager at the address stated below by no later than **Tuesday, 1 February 2011**.

Proposal 1: Transfer the entire site of the Foresthall Park development into Stansted Mountfitchet Parish by realigning the boundary to follow the existing boundary from Gipsy Lane in a north-easterly direction to the junction with Stansted Road, then in a southerly direction to the junction with Forest Hall Road, then following the centre of that road for nearly its entire length in a generally easterly direction nearly to the junction with Parsonage Lane, and then following the rear boundaries of the properties known as 1 and 2 Parsonage Farm Cottages in a southerly and then easterly direction to a point where it meets with Parsonage Lane, and then in a generally southerly direction to the existing parish boundary immediately south of Parsonage Farm. The effect of this change would be to transfer to Stansted Mountfitchet Parish everything lying to the north of Forest Hall Road, including properties at Pines Hill.

The Council intends that the boundary change above should be accompanied by the following revised electoral schemes for the two parishes concerned: Birchanger Parish Council will retain nine councillors; Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council will retain 15 councillors but the balance between the two wards will change so that the representation of Stansted North ward will reduce from seven to six councillors and the representation of Stansted South ward will increase from eight to nine councillors, thus better reflecting the balance between the number of electors in the two wards. The ordinary parish elections scheduled to take place in May 2011 will be postponed by one year to enable these revised arrangements to be put into place.

The justification for this proposal is that the unification of the whole of the Foresthall Park development will reflect the interests and identities of the local community, especially the residents of the new residential site, and lead to the more effective and convenient delivery of local services. It is considered that Foresthall Park is part of the natural extension of the limits of Stansted village south of Stoney Common Road, Stoney Common and Manor Road. A new boundary following the line of Forest Hall Road for most of its length will act as suitable demarcation between the two communities of Birchanger and Stansted Mountfitchet and act as a sustainable long term boundary.

Proposal 2: There should be no change to the boundary between the parishes of Little Canfield and Takeley.

If this proposal is confirmed at the final stage of the review, the electoral schemes for the two parishes should be amended as follows: the number of

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councillors to be elected in Little Canfield should be increased from seven to nine, with six councillors to be elected in a newly created ward of Priors Green (consisting of the new development site and possibly to include some adjoining residential properties at Dunmow Road), with the remaining three councillors to be elected in the remainder of the parish to be known as The Village ward; the number of councillors to be elected to Takeley Parish Council is proposed to increase from 11 to 13. The ordinary parish elections scheduled to take place in May 2011 will be postponed for one year to enable these revised arrangements to be put into place.

The Council is presently minded not to make any change to the parish boundary at this location and that is reflected in the draft recommendation. However, the Council wishes to consult on a range of options for possible change to establish the strength of local opinion. Some form of change to the boundary may be appropriate but this will depend on the nature of the responses made to this consultation. Whatever is decided, the Council wishes to encourage the process of integration between the new development and the established communities in Little Canfield and Takeley to continue. A number of different views were expressed at the initial consultation stage of the review, including a proposal for the creation of a new parish covering the Priors Green area, and it has not been possible at this stage of the review to identify a solution that would meet the community interests and identities of the majority of the residents concerned. It is hoped that the next stage of the review will enable community interests to be better identified thus enabling the Council to agree a proposal that has majority support within the Priors Green development itself.

Consultation arrangements: Letters will be sent to all residents at the two locations concerned who are thought to have a direct interest in any proposal to change parish boundaries. The letters will include a voting form to enable residents to express their views about the various options under consideration.

This notice and other information about the review can be viewed on the Council's website at www.uttlesford.gov.uk.

The proposals, including a map showing the effect of the changes being considered, may be viewed at all reasonable times at the Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden CB11 4ER, between the date of this notice and 1 February 2011. Copies of the proposals and the maps will also be sent to all of the parish councils concerned.

Completed voting forms, together with any other comments about the proposals outlined in this notice, should be sent to the Democratic and Electoral Services Manager at the Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden CB11 4ER. Alternatively, views and comments about the proposals may be sent to elections@uttlesford.gov.uk.

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17 November 2010