



Keith Mitchell

Communities Programmes Manager

Northampton borough Council

Guildhall

Northampton

NN1 1DE

17 May 2012

Dear Mr Mitchell,

At the meeting of Wootton and East Hunsbury Parish Council held on 16 May 2012 the Council considered the current Community Governance review and in particular the question of the Parish Poll held in 2008.

The Poll asked the question:

That the existing Parish is split to create two new parishes each separately serving the areas of:

- *Wootton, Wootton Fields and Simpson Manor*
- *East Hunsbury*

The poll was held on 19 June 2008 and 381 electors voted in favour of the proposition and 85 against. The turnout was 3.8%

At the meeting Wootton and East Hunsbury Parish Council considered carefully whether the question and outcome of the 2008 Parish Poll remains relevant to local residents.

The Parish Council listened to the views of one local resident who was amongst those who had originally called for the poll. The resident believed that the poll was still relevant and that local people welcomed the Community Governance review.

After lengthy debate the Parish Council came to the formal decision that as the poll was not called for by the Parish Council it was not for the Parish Council to say whether or not it was still

www.woottonpc.co.uk

relevant. The Parish Council do not wish to have a pre-determined view before the stage 2 consultation begins.

The Parish Council are mindful that local residents should be able to have their say on the proposals to split. Any further consultation would need to ensure that residents fully understand both the financial and neighbourhood /community implications of a split.

The Parish Council will now begin to assess what these impacts might be and will be carrying out their own feasibility study of the split.

The Parish Council will no doubt continue to consider this issue throughout the coming months.

Yours sincerely

A large, dark, rectangular redaction mark covering the signature area.A smaller, dark, rectangular redaction mark covering the name of the Parish Clerk.
Parish Clerk

**Proposed Parish Boundary Alterations
Wootton & East Hunsbury and Collingtree**

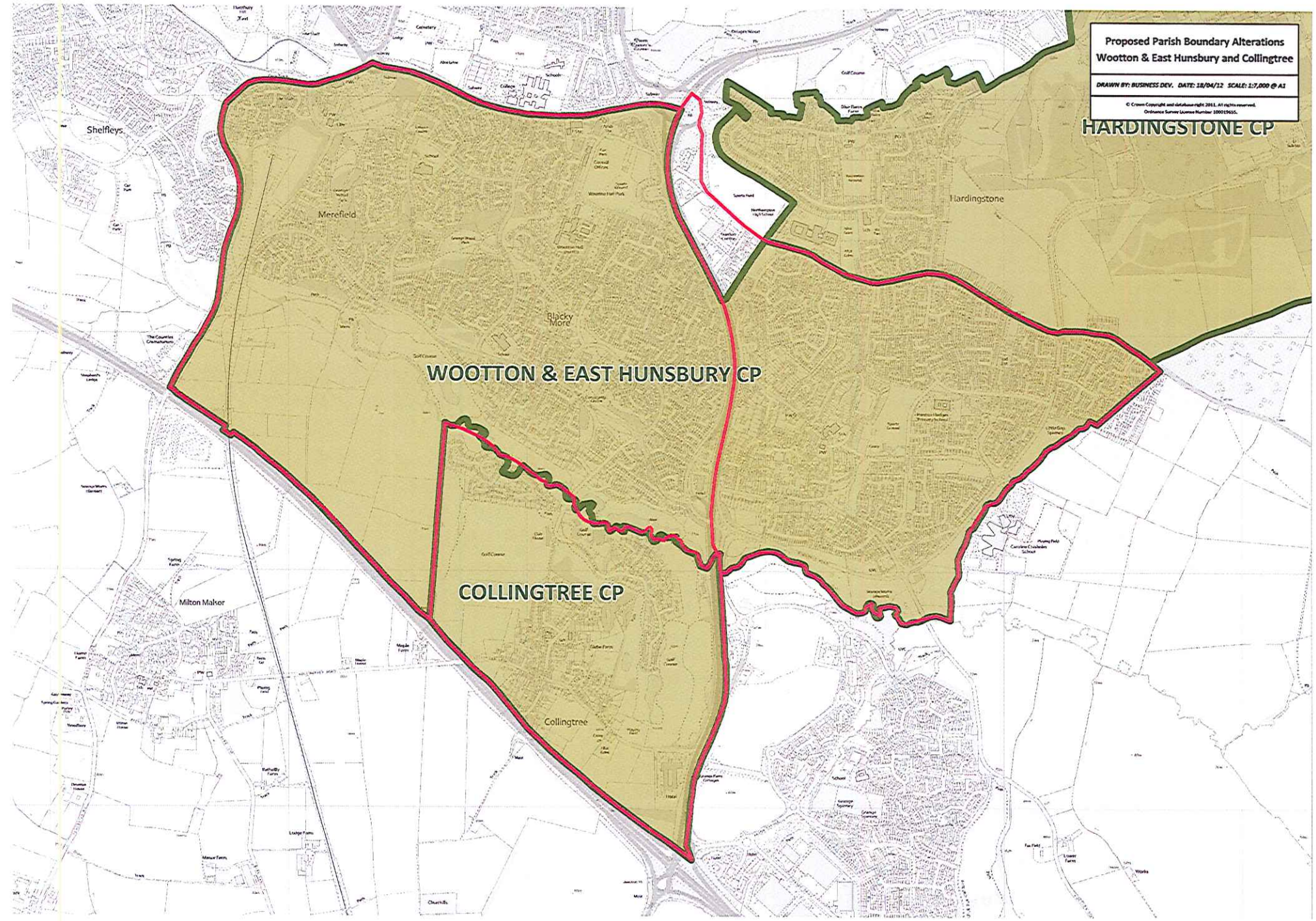
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HARDINGSTONE CP

WOOTTON & EAST HUNSBURY CP

COLLINGTREE CP



Keith Mitchell
Community Governance Review
Northampton Borough Council

17 May 2012

Dear Keith,

I write in support of the proposal to carry out a community governance review of the current parish of Wootton and East Hunsbury in line with the parish poll conducted in 2008. That poll resulted in 82% of those that voted supporting the proposal to split the parish into two parishes with the A45 dual carriageway forming the boundary between the 2 new parishes of Wootton Parish, and East Hunsbury Parish.

The south of Northampton has seen significant amount of development over the years, and whilst there have been some changes to parish boundaries as a result of development, the current boundary of Wootton and East Hunsbury is an anomaly.

Historically, the parish boundary extended westward of the village across to encompass the area that we now know as West Hunsbury. That area was eventually taken out of the parish, and the western boundary of the parish was formed by the re-aligned Towcester Road.

Hardingstone Parish was similarly a very large parish which once extended to include much of the south of Northampton including Cotton End, Far Cotton, Delapre, Eleanor Cross, Delapre Abbey, the Iron Age hill fort at Hunsbury Hill, and Briar Hill. As the south of Northampton expanded, the parish boundary was altered and is now properly aligned with what is rightly considered to be the natural community of Hardingstone.¹

The developments of East Hunsbury, Wootton Fields and Simpson Manor have now been completed, and we now have a situation where we have two separate and distinct natural communities in the parish separated by the A45 London Road. This point has been accepted by the borough council in the Natural Communities Map on the CGR section of the NBC website which shows Wootton and East Hunsbury being two separate natural communities.²

It would be just as anomalous for Hardingstone to be linked to Briar Hill via a historical parish boundary, as it is for Wootton to remain linked to East Hunsbury through the current parish boundary. The world has moved on and the parish boundary has to reflect the changed circumstances. Residents of Wootton do not consider themselves to be part of the same community as residents of East Hunsbury and vice versa.

The separation of the communities was reinforced a few years ago when the parish council at the time campaigned against Highways Agency plans to connect the two communities, along the line of an old bridleway, with a footbridge that crossed the A45. The Highways Agency eventually deciding on installing a fence along the central reservation of the A45.

¹ [Hardingstone Conservation Area Appraisal](#)

² [Natural Communities Map](#)

The principle purpose of a community governance review is to secure that community governance reflects the identities and interests of the community, and the need to secure that community governance in that area is effective and convenient. You are also required to take account of any representations received in connection with the review, and in this regard the 82% vote in the parish poll is still as relevant today as it was four years ago.

The review offers an opportunity to put in place strong, clearly defined boundaries, tied to firm ground features, and remove the anomalous parish boundary that currently exists. I have read the guidance on community governance reviews and can see nothing in that guidance that should mitigate against a review that results in the creation of two separate parishes. Both areas are of a sufficient size to justify separate parish councils, and indeed both would still be larger than many of the other areas of the town that are under consideration, such as Rectory Farm.

I could give many reasons why the review is the absolutely right thing to do, but I shall leave you with one last thought. One of the problems that we have in getting people to come forward to serve on the parish council here in Wootton is that, in the time scarce world that we live in, people are reluctant to give up their time to look after the interests of an East Hunsbury community that they have no connection with. There isn't that natural connection to the parish council that there should be.

The parish council discussed the question on Wednesday evening as to whether the result of the parish poll was still relevant today, and the question of the split. The result of that discussion was that the parish council did not wish to express a view on the current relevance of the poll, and that the issue should go forward to stage 2 of the process for consideration. Constitutionally, the poll is called by a parish meeting, which is a separate entity to the parish.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Parish Councillor - Wootton Ward
Wootton & East Hunsbury Parish Council

[REDACTED]
Wootton
Northampton

Keith Mitchell

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 May 2012 15:46
To: Keith Mitchell
Subject: boundaries

Dear Sirs,

As one of the persons who asked for the Parish Poll , 19.6.2008 asking the question? Should the Parish of Wootton and East Hunsbury be split and two new Parishes be created. i.e Wootton,Wootton fields, and East Hunsbury. The Poll produced a turnout of 3,8% 381 in favour of the split, 85 against (80% in favour) in response to an item on W&EH P.C agenda 16.5.2012 (to determine the P.Cs position on whether the question and the outcome of the Parish Poll remains relevant to local residents). I attended this meeting to make it very clear that it does. I am often asked even after 4 years "what happened about the Poll to split" in my opinion what didn't help the Polls cause was, (1) no advertising to discuss the Pros and Cons,(2)No one new where to vote.People were arriving at Polling stations and being turned away because they were not registered at that station.(3) No Ballot papers were delivered;Perhaps this is normal in this type of Poll, but it certainly didn't help.It was pointed out to me that Wootton gets more of the precept spent on it than East Hunsbury.If we separate then all monies raised will be spent on the area it came from. Then Wootton would have to cut it's cloth accordingly.In my time as a P.C, West Hunsbury was part of our council N.B.C, decide to take it back into the Borough, even then we realised the Parish was too big, and with the building of Wootton Fields and Simpson Manor we are back to square one, don't forget the 1000 houses in the pipeline.The dual carriageway (A508 A45) separates East Hunsbury and Wootton and always has done,it seems logical that this would be the boundary line. I hope you will take our Poll into consideration because although not legally binding it does represent the democratic will of those that bothered to vote.

Yours

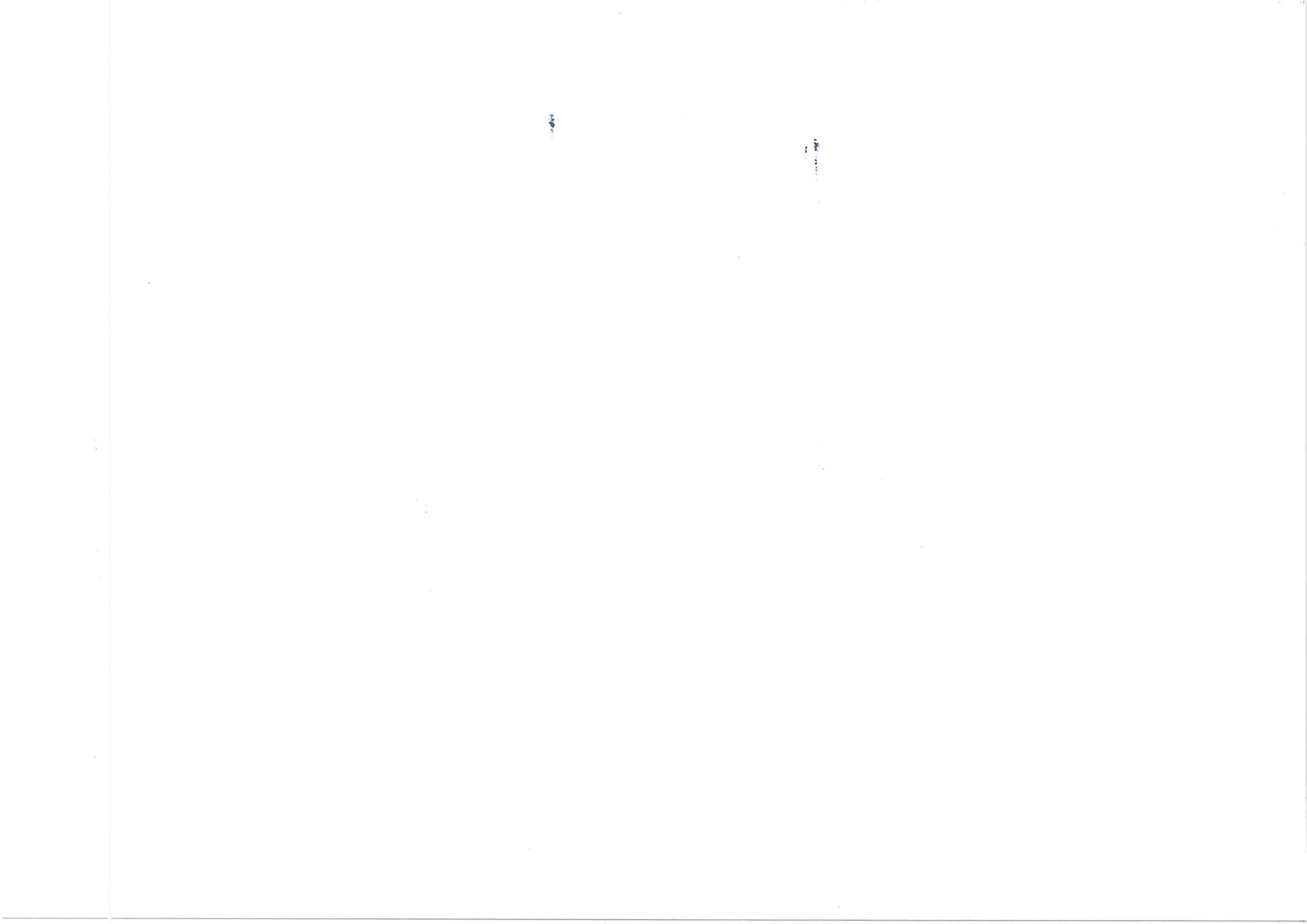
[REDACTED]
Wootton Fields

28/05/12



Community Governance Review
Wootton & East Hunsbury Questions Raised at Parish Council meeting 15 February 2012
Responses Provided by Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils

Question	Response
<p>1 Is a petition required now to make any changes in current parish boundary, given there was a Parish poll in 2008?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2008 Parish poll only achieved a 4% turnout - what were actual poll numbers? - Did they meet current 10% requirements? 	<p>No petition required – representations received through the current consultation could be used to make a recommendation on parish boundaries. That said, a new petition could be received and NBC would have to decide whether to treat it separately or include in it the ToRs of the current CGR.</p>
<p>2 If a petition is required, and the change is a split of the Parish in half, is the threshold number of required signatures in relation to the whole parish?</p>	<p>No petition required so no threshold. My understanding is that there is extremely limited support for splitting the parish and Northants CALC would see it as a very retrograde step.</p>
<p>3 If a petition is required, and the change is a minor change in parish boundary to take in a few more electors or a few less, is the threshold number of required signatures in relation to the whole parish?</p>	<p>No petition required.</p>
<p>4 If a petition and referendum is successful in splitting the Parish in half, how will the current Parish Council assets and liabilities be divided between each half?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would the assets be divided based on geography as they would in the event of a council boundary change? - Petitioner would have to seek their own legal advice - The majority of the PC assets are in Wootton; community & sports centre - however, the precept from the whole of Wootton and East Hunsbury has paid for these 	<p>A recommendation to split a parish would also need to include a mechanism for dividing the assets of the original parish. The reorganization order would specify what went where.</p>
<p>5 If the current parish assets are split, how could Wootton maintain high level of facilities in their half?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - current facilities would not be able to operate with the precept from just the Wootton residents they would need to double the precept for Wootton residents or close half of the facilities in Wootton 	<p>These are all good reasons why splitting of parishes is not a good idea.</p>
<p>6 In the event that the parish is split, who arranges the election of parish councillors for each half and who pays the cost of the election in May 2013?</p>	<p>Details would be specified in the reorganization order. Costs would be paid by NBC in the first instance and would then be subject to special expenses in the usual way.</p>
<p>7 In the event that the parish is split, and parish councillors are appointed for each half in May 2013, where does the first year funding come from if precepts can't be set until 2014?</p>	<p>The original parish would have set a budget for the whole area, which would be split according to the terms of the reorganization order.</p>



Keith Mitchell

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 May 2012 20:56
To: Keith Mitchell
Subject: RE: Upton PC 2008 Boundary change proposal

Dear Keith

Yes it is the boundary outlined in red.

Regards

[REDACTED] Chairman Upton Parish Council

From: Keith Mitchell [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: 03 May 2012 15:33
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Upton PC 2008 Boundary change proposal

Hello

Can you please confirm to me the boundary relating to this petition - is it the red-lined boundary on the attached map?

Many thanks

Keith

Keith Mitchell
Communities Programmes Manager
Tel [REDACTED]
Mob [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 April 2012 17:50
To: Keith Mitchell
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Upton PC 2008 Boundary change proposal

Dear Keith

Thank you for your email. Upton Parish Council supports the 2008 petition by Upton Grange Residents Association to review the current boundary of Upton parish Council so that it is defined by Upton Way, with Upton Grange and the entirety of the Upton development consequently falling within the parish.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Chairman Upton Parish Council

From: Keith Mitchell [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: 23 April 2012 10:49
To: [REDACTED]

28/05/12

Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Upton PC 2008 Boundary change proposal
Importance: High

Hello [REDACTED]

Further to my email last week, I have attached the first 3 pages of the petition submitted in 2008. These pages show the changes required on two maps. The maps seem to show a different area to be included in the existing PC. It is not clear if you wanted the new boundary to follow the ward boundary.

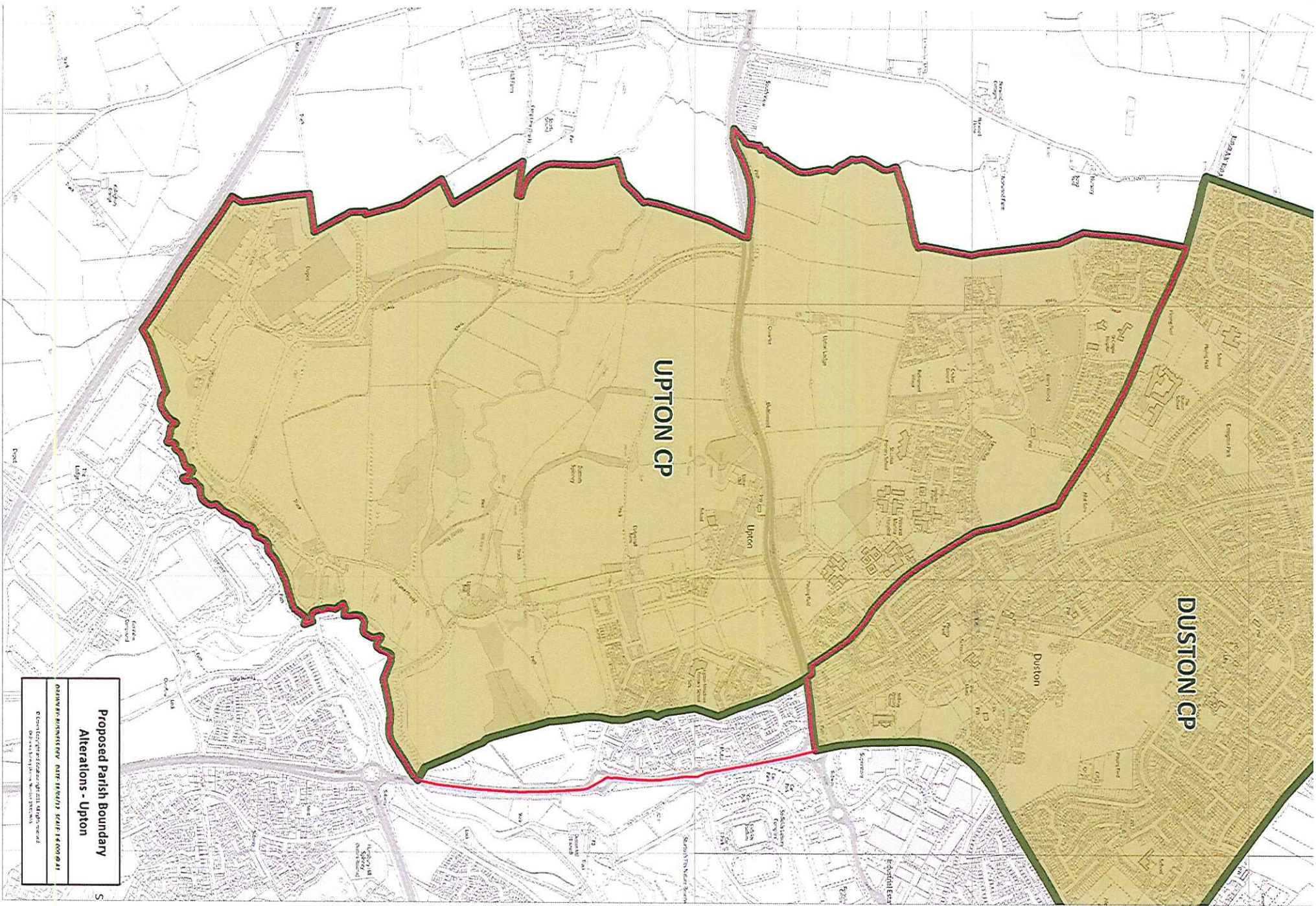
Can you please confirm which map is the required area to be included in Upton PC?

Many thanks

Keith

Keith Mitchell
Communities Programmes Manager
Tel [REDACTED]
Mob [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]
Northampton BC
First Floor
The Guildhall
St Giles Square
Northampton NN1 1DE

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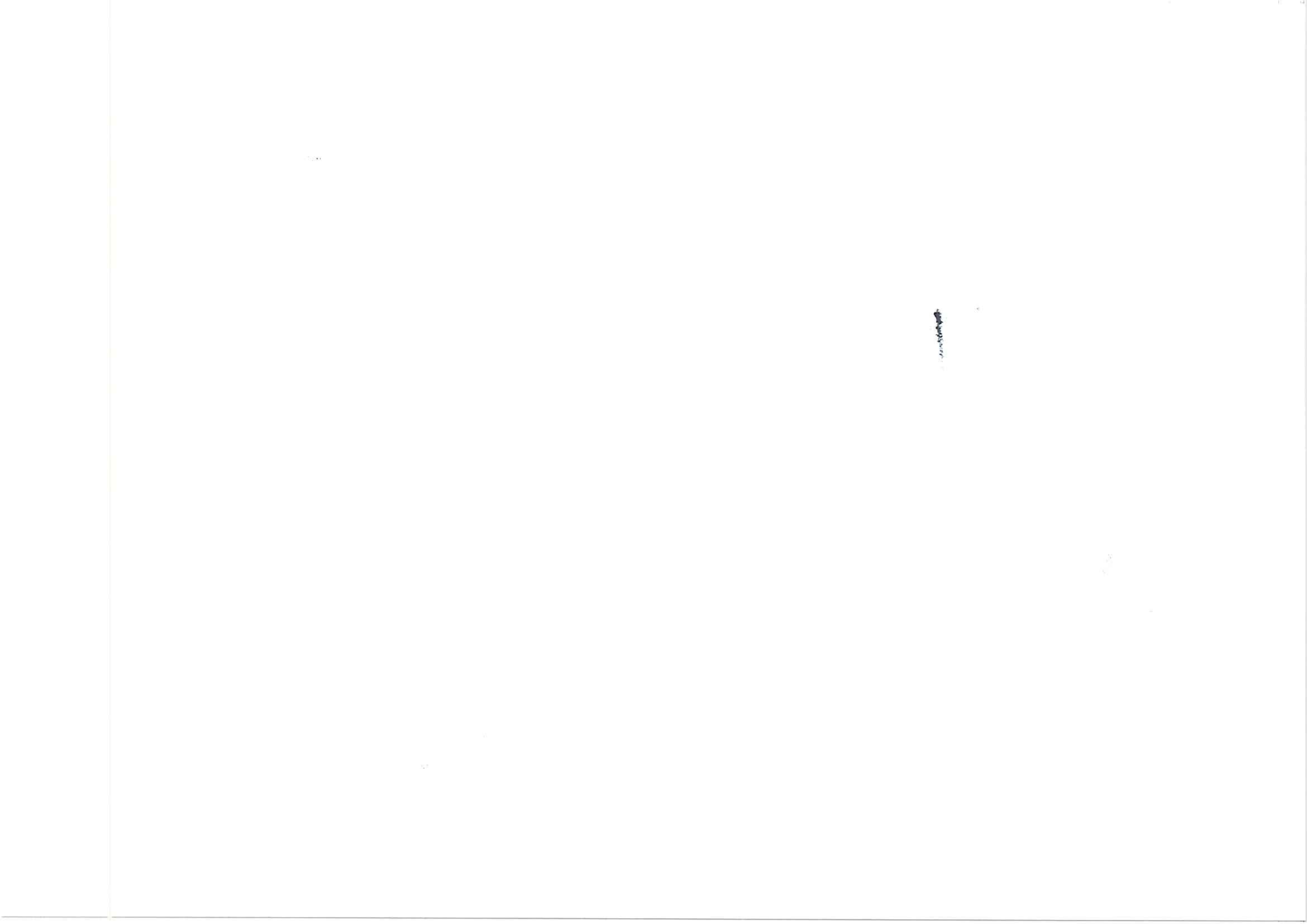


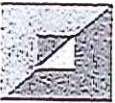
**Proposed Parish Boundary
Alterations - Upton**

PLANNING SERVICES DIV. MAP NUMBER: MAP 14000002.01

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Great Houghton Parish Council

[REDACTED]
Clerk to Great Houghton Parish Council,

[REDACTED]
Northampton,

18th April, 2012

Mr. K. Mitchell,
Community Governance Review Officer,
Northampton Borough Council,
The Guildhall,
St. Giles' Square,
Northampton, NN1 1DE.

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

Northampton Community Governance Review

Thank you for your letter of 3rd February. The Northampton Community Governance Review was discussed by Great Houghton Parish Council and I enclose a map showing proposed amendments for consideration.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

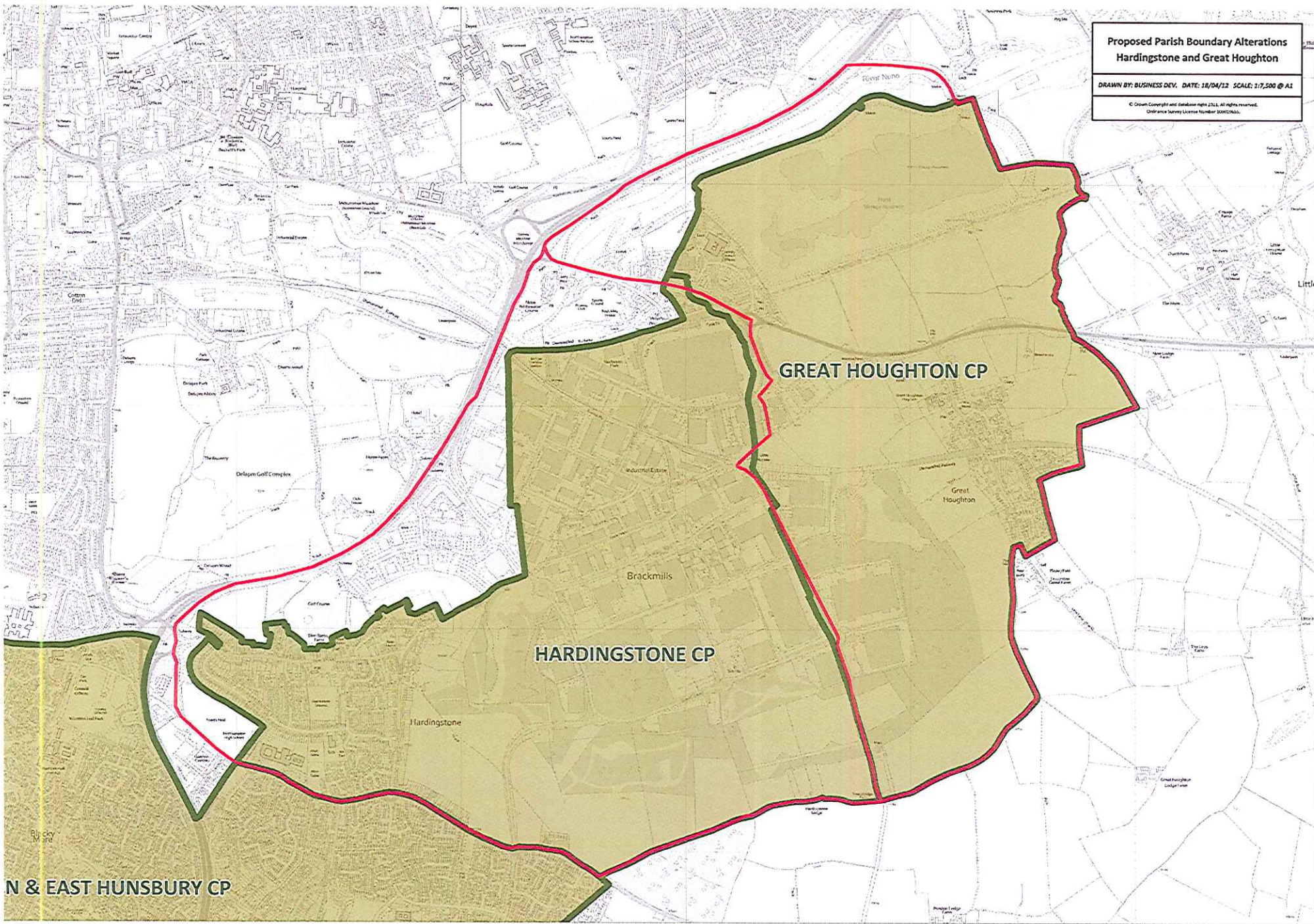
[REDACTED]
Clerk – Great Houghton Parish Council



**Proposed Parish Boundary Alterations
Hardingstone and Great Houghton**

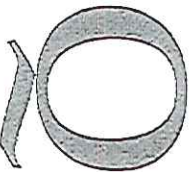
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N & EAST HUNSBURY CP

HARDINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL



QUALITY
PARISH
COUNCIL

Parish Room
High street
Hardingsstone
NN4 6DA
[Redacted]

Clerk to the Parish Council:
Email: clark@hardingsstonevillage.co.uk

7th May 2012

Mr K Mitchell
Community Governance Review Officer
Northampton Borough Council
The Guildhall
St Giles Square
Northampton
NN1 1DE

By email

Dear Mr Mitchell

Northampton Community Governance Review

Thank you for your email on 4th May. I am writing on behalf of the Parish Council [Redacted]

The proposed boundary changes were discussed by Hardingsstone Parish Council at our Parish Meeting held on 24th April 2012.

Hardingsstone Parish Council is happy with and in full agreement of the proposed boundary changes. The number of registered electors that the changes would affect within the Parish is nil.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

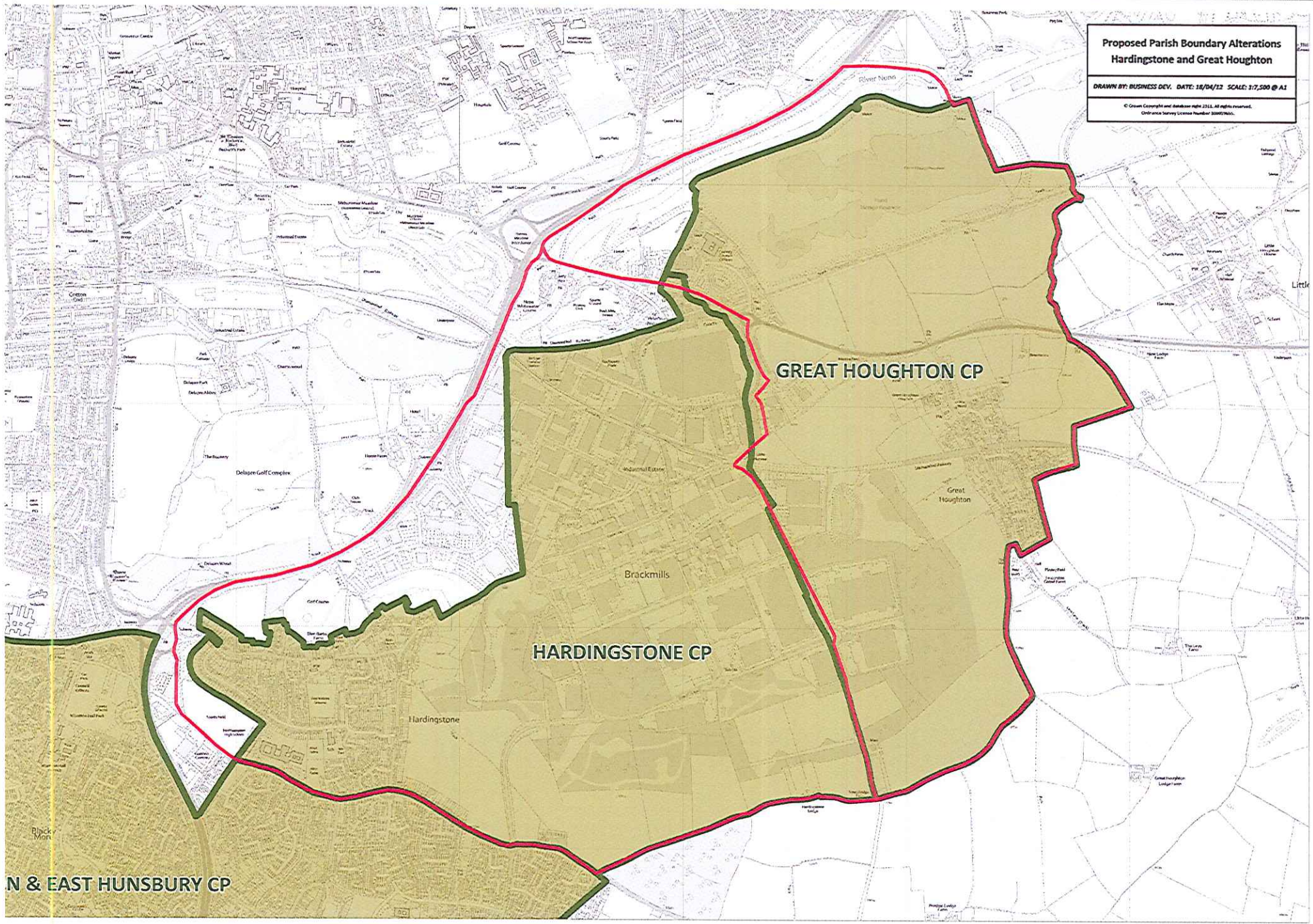
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Hardingsstone Parish Council

**Proposed Parish Boundary Alterations
Hardingstone and Great Houghton**

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N & EAST HUNSBURY CP

COLLINGTREE PARISH COUNCIL


Collingtree Village
NORTHAMPTON

Clerk 

Email: 

Tel: 

10th April, 2012

The Legal Department,
Northampton Borough Council,
The Guildhall,
St Giles' Square,
NORTHAMPTON
NN1 1DE

Dear Sirs,

Collingtree Parish Council wishes the Borough Council to adopt the revised Borough boundary line upon the map of Proposed Parish Boundary Alterations pertaining to the Parish of Collingtree in the area to the immediate north of part of Belfry Lane in Collingtree Park.

This requirement was raised recently by the Boundary Commission when it was proposed to split the Parish into two electoral areas, Collingtree North and South, a proposal which was adopted for the elections in 2011. It was pointed out that two houses nominally in the Parish fell just outside the area as currently defined because the boundary line was not amended when the course of the Wootton Brook was altered during the creation of the Golf Course and the associated housing. The Boundary Commission was of the opinion that this was a responsibility of the Borough Council and should be amended as soon as possible.

It is the hope of the Parish Council that this matter can now be satisfactorily resolved.

Yours truly,


Chairman,
Collingtree Parish Council

Tel: 



Proposed Parish Boundary Alterations
Wootton & East Hunsbury and Collingtree

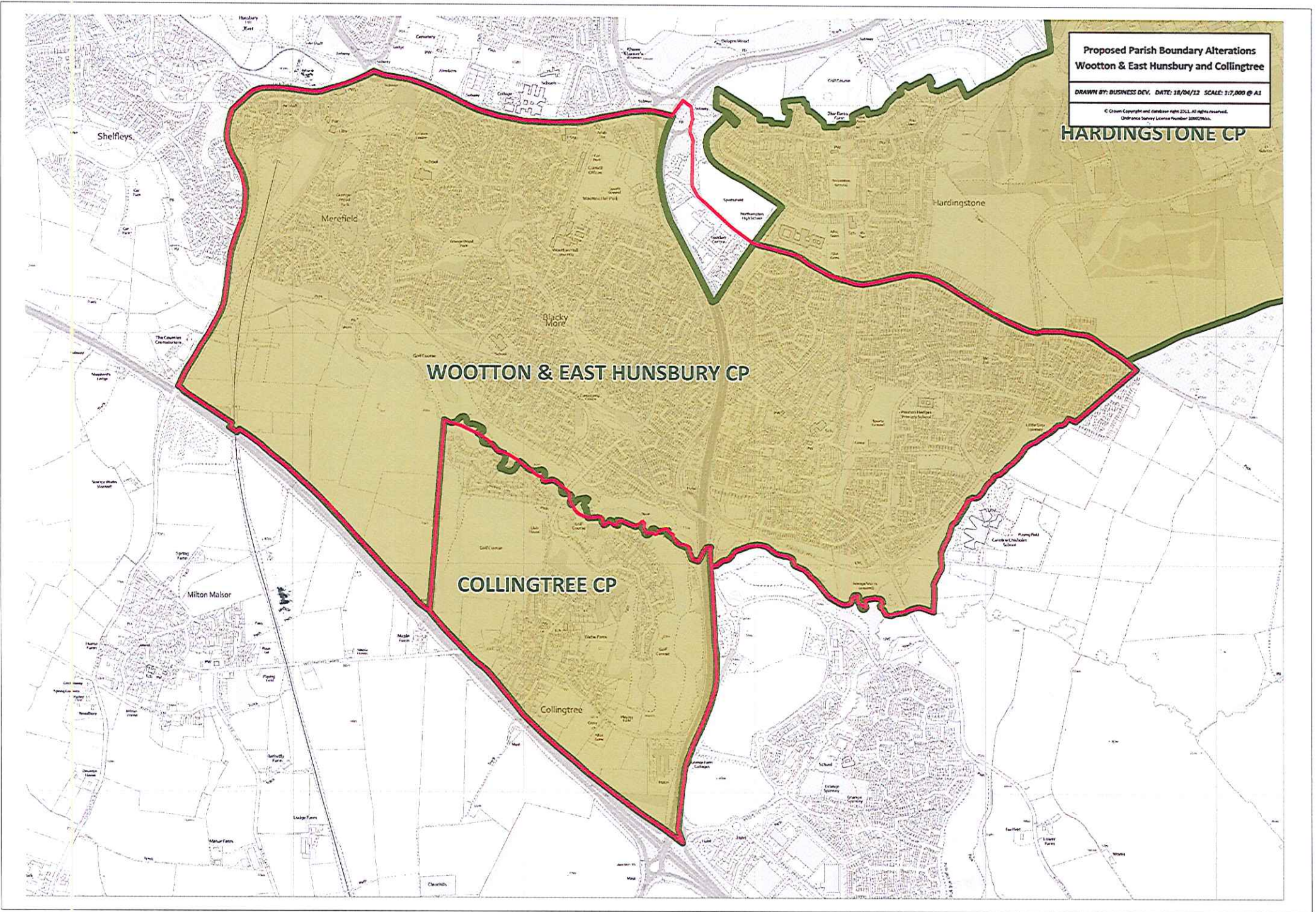
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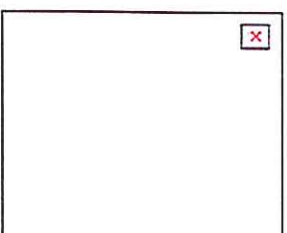
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HARDINGSTONE CP

WOOTTON & EAST HUNSBURY CP

COLLINGTREE CP





Community Governance Review
Northampton Borough Council
The Guildhall
Northampton
NN1 1DE

25th April 2012

Dear Sirs,


I am writing on behalf of Wootton and East Hunsbury Parish Council in relation to the Community Governance Review.

Having considered the matter at its April meeting the Council would like to propose that Turners Court and Turners Garden are included within the Parish Boundary for Wootton and East Hunsbury Parish Council. This minor change to the parish boundary reflects community identity and interest. (The attached map shows the proposed area)

The Parish Council understands that the size of the electorate for this area means that it is not necessary for a petition to be submitted to move this proposal forward to stage 2. The Parish Council therefore ask that the CGR steering group give this proposal due consideration and that the local community are consulted with.

Secondly the Parish Council would like to offer their support to a proposed boundary change in Belfry Lane. At present a single property in Belfry lane that falls within the boundary of Wootton and East Hunsbury Parish, it would make sense geographically and be more reflective of local communities if this property were moved into Collingtree Parish Council. (The attached map shows the proposed change)

Yours sincerely


Parish Clerk



**Proposed Parish Boundary Alterations
Wootton & East Hunsbury and Collingtree**

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HARDINGSTONE CP

WOOTTON & EAST HUNSBURY CP

COLLINGTREE CP

