



**THE RT. HON. SIR ALAN HASELHURST, M.P.**  
Member of Parliament for Saffron Walden

House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

8<sup>th</sup> July, 2013

A. Gall, Esq.  
Director of Reviews,  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England,  
Layden House, 76-86 Tummill Street,  
London EC1M 5LG



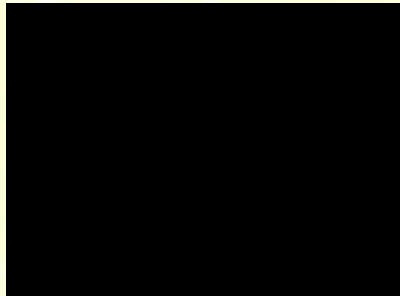
*A. Gall* 10/7

Subject: **MANUDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

I enclose a copy of an email dated 4<sup>th</sup> July which I have received from the Clerk to Manuden Parish Council about the changes affecting that village which you have proposed as part of the overall review of ward boundaries in Uttlesford.

The attachments to which Mr. Bartram refers will be in your possession. I attach a copy of the Parish Council Chairman's submission of 29<sup>th</sup> May. I have a great deal of respect for Dr. Atkinson and I hope that you will give due weight to his words.

I feel bound to reflect the concerns which have arisen about your current proposal affecting the three parishes in my constituency and I hope that they will receive full consideration.



## HASELHURST, Alan

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**From:** Val&Chaz Bartram [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 04 July 2013 18:00  
**To:** HASELHURST, Alan  
**Subject:** Boundary Commission proposals for Manuden  
**Attachments:** Boundary Commission Cllr Dean.pdf; Boundary Commission Manuden PC.doc; Boundary Commission Cllr Loughlin.doc



## Manuden Parish Council



4<sup>th</sup> July 2013

Rt. Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst MP

Dear Sir Alan,

I am writing on behalf of Manuden Parish Council as my Councillors are becoming increasingly worried that under the proposed Boundary Commission changes we will be "swallowed up" into a proposed Stansted North Ward.

At present we are in the Stort Valley Ward which is composed of three rural villages and are extremely well represented by our District Councillor who attends most of our Parish Council meetings and knows the area and our residents thoroughly. As you are aware there are many planning applications for Stansted Mountfitchet which will inevitably lead to more urban sprawl ..... **we do not wish to lose our identity**..... and could not believe what is being proposed, we have absolutely no wish at all to be linked with Stansted as we have very little in common with them and feel that any Councillor who has to represent Stansted North will inevitably find that a vast amount of their time is taken by the demands of Stansted. It would be much more sensible to link us with Ugley as their characteristics are so much more similar to our own

Please can you find the three attachments listing the views of our Chairman Dr. Atkinson, the views of Councillor Dean and the feelings of our District Councillor Loughlin following a recent meeting of Uttlesford District Council.

From Councillor Loughlin's comments you can see the urgency needed and we would ask that you do anything in your power to represent the views of our Council so that the Boundary Commission reconsider their proposals and listen to our wishes.

Yours sincerely

Charles Bartram

Parish Clerk, Manuden



## Manuden Parish Council



29th May, 2013

Review Officer  
Uttlesford Review  
The Local Government Boundary  
Commission for England  
Layden House  
76 – 86 Turnmill Street  
London EC1M 5LG

Dear Sirs

**Draft Recommendations on the New Electoral Arrangements for Uttlesford District Council**

I am responding on behalf of Manuden Parish Council to your invitation to comment on the draft proposals for new ward boundaries in the District of Uttlesford.

Manuden Parish Council is very strongly opposed to these proposals as far as they affect the Parish of Manuden.

Combining the Stort Valley ward containing three small villages, of which we are one, with half the town of Stansted fails to meet any of the three "main considerations" you are obliged by law to apply in devising your recommendations.

Taking these "main considerations" in turn:

- 1) **"Secure effective and convenient local government"**.

Having three district councillors to represent what would be a heterogeneous jumble of urban and rural interests is a recipe for disagreement between the councillors. It would deny us a clear and firm representation of our rural interests in the Council Chamber. We are very happy that we are represented by a single District Councillor at the moment. This would have remained the case had you not decided to tinker with Uttlesford's own well-constructed-proposals in which the Parish of Ugley would be grouped with the parishes of Manuden, Berden and Farnham.

The argument which appears to have caused you to reject the District Council's proposal is that there is "no direct road links from Ugley to the Stort Valley Parishes". This argument is specious. The geography of the area is such that the road link between Ugley and, say, Manuden is no worse than the link, say, between Farnham and Berden. We live in the countryside.

2) "Provide for Equality of Representation"

You clearly had difficulty in accepting the District Council's estimated changes in the number and distribution of electors in an area over a five year period. We are even more sceptical of these estimates. The Council's Housing Policy is currently in disarray. Placing any reliance on the projected demographics of the area is dangerous. Nevertheless we note that the number of electors per councillor in your proposed Stansted North ward would be very similar to the number in the District Council's enlarged Stort Valley ward, both today and as projected for 2018. This reinforces the case for accepting the District Council's proposal.

3) "Reflect the Identities and Interests of the Local Communities, in particular i) the desirability arriving at boundaries that are easily identifiable and ii) the desirability of fixing boundaries so as not to break any local ties."

Your proposal fails both these tests miserably. Just a glance at a map demonstrates that there is no identifiable reason for merging half a town with three rural villages.

You also seek to deploy the argument that we share local services with Stansted. We do not have detailed statistics to prove the point but residents of the four villages make much more use of the services in Bishop's Stortford than in Stansted. In Bishop's Stortford there is more extensive shopping, medical, dental and other facilities and it is a much more convenient place to reach.

In the past Manuden Parish Council has regularly worked together with Farnham and Berden Councils to address issues of common concern. We have never felt the need to do so with Stansted – our big brother down the road.

For all of these reasons we hope you will think again and revert to the District Council's proposal to bring the Parish of Ugley into the present Stort Valley ward or at least devise an alternative in which Manuden and its neighbouring villages in the Stort Valley are not lumped together with half the town of Stansted, and which allows the Stort Valley villages to continue to be represented by a single Councillor.

I am copying this letter to our District Councillor, Janice Loughlin, and to Uttlesford District Council's Chief Executive, John Mitchell, for their information.

Yours sincerely

Dr Leslie Atkinson  
Chairman of the Parish Council