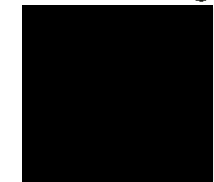


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03 JAN 2013

Cuxham with Easington Parish Meeting



2 January 2013

Dear Review Officer (South Oxfordshire)

Re: Electoral Review of South Oxfordshire

Cuxham with Easington Parish Meeting strongly objects to the proposal to move it from the Watlington Ward to the Chalgrove Ward.

We note that the reason you give for this proposed move is ‘to improve internal access’ and specifically to enable Brightwell Baldwin to have a direct route to the rest of the Ward. The original proposal from South Oxfordshire District Council was for Cuxham with Easington to remain within the Watlington Ward; the SODC Warding Proposals Appendix A (30th August 2012) states that ‘although residents of Brightwell Baldwin have to travel out of the proposed ward to reach Chalgrove, this is for a short distance only’, suggesting that the situation was acceptable.

We feel that your three obligations, which are set out in law; 1 - to deliver electoral equality for voters; 2 - to reflect local community interests and identities and 3 - to promote effective and convenient local government, are far better achieved by not moving Cuxham to the Chalgrove Ward and for Cuxham with Easington to remain within the Watlington Ward. We outline our comments on each of these points in the bullets below:

1. Electoral equality for voters

The South Oxfordshire District Council – New Warding Arrangements proposal document advised that the Cuxham with Easington electorate numbers are 96 (in 2012) and will be 93 (in 2018).

We have removed these from the Chalgrove Ward and added to the Watlington Ward as shown in the table below to support our counter-proposal.

Further to paragraph 29 in the LGBCE draft recommendations, in the Cuxham with Easington counter-proposal, all of the proposed 20 wards continue to have electoral variances of less than 10% from the average for the district by 2018. LGBCE should therefore still be satisfied that the counter-proposal retains good levels of electoral fairness for South Oxfordshire. There seems no reason, therefore purely based on number of electors why Cuxham with Easington cannot remain within the Watlington Ward.

	Ward Name	Number of Councillors	Electorate (2012)	Number of Electors per Councillor	Variance from Average (%)	Electorate (2018)	Number of Electors per Councillor	Variance from Average (%)
1	Benson	2	5,759	2,880	0%	6,063	3,032	0%
2	Berinsfield	1	2,911	2,911	1%	2,891	2,891	-4%
3	Chalgrove	1	2,771	2,771	-3%	2,740	2,740	-9%
4	Chinnor	2	6,033	3,017	5%	6,195	3,098	3%
5	Cholsey	2	5,499	2,750	-4%	6,068	3,043	1%
6	Didcot North-East	3	7,515	2,505	-13%	9,267	3,089	2%
7	Didcot South	3	8,203	2,734	-5%	8,425	2,808	-7%
8	Didcot West	2	4,056	2,028	-29%	6,474	3,237	7%
9	Garsington & Horspath	1	2,899	2,899	1%	2,862	2,862	-5%
10	Goring	1	3,074	3,074	7%	3,059	3,059	1%
11	Haseley Brook	1	3,148	3,148	10%	3,118	3,118	3%
12	Henley-on-Thames	3	9,195	3,065	7%	9,315	3,105	3%
13	Kidmore End & Witchurch	1	2,893	2,893	1%	2,838	2,838	-6%
14	Sandford & the Wittenhams	1	3,127	3,127	9%	3,084	3,084	2%
15	Sonning Common	2	5,666	2,833	-1%	5,606	2,803	-7%
16	Thame	3	9,063	3,021	5%	9,301	3,100	3%
17	Wallingford	2	5,823	2,912	2%	5,749	2,875	-5%
18	Watlington	1	3,065	3,065	7%	3,020	3,020	0%
19	Wheatley	2	6,158	3,079	7%	6,146	3,073	2%
20	Woodcote & Rotherfield	2	6,401	3,201	12%	6,403	3,202	6%
	Totals	36	103,259			108,642		
	Averages			2,868			3,018	

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2. Reflect local community interests and identities. SODC, in its Appendix A (as above) also states that their proposed Watlington ward, which included Cuxham 'comprises seven parishes, with Watlington at the centre. Watlington is the dominant community accounting for over 70 per cent of the electorate. **The surrounding parishes look to and link well with Watlington.**'

Further the following specific points support the links of Cuxham with Watlington and support the fact that Cuxham with Easington should remain within the Watlington Ward.

- Cuxham with Easington Parish Meeting feel that we do indeed have very strong and important links with Watlington and very few, if any, with Chalgrove.
- Watlington is close enough to walk and cycle to. The road is suitable for older children and adults to access all the local amenities without a car or public transport. Chalgrove is twice as far and the road is straighter, hence vehicles travel at far greater speeds and therefore the route is more dangerous.
- The children from the village attend both the Primary and Secondary Schools in Watlington and some of the parents from the village are members of the PTA at the Primary School and Friends of Icknield. No children from the village attend Chalgrove Primary School and we are not in their catchment area.
- Cuxham villagers use the Doctor's Surgery in Watlington, Watlington Library and Watlington shops.
- Cuxham comes under the same Policing Area as Watlington.
- The postal address is Cuxham, Watlington and we have the same postcode, telephone exchange and STD code (OX49 and 01491), Chalgrove is OX44 and 01865.
- In the near future, Cuxham may be involved with helping to draw up Watlington's Neighbourhood Plan. In the past, issues have arisen relating to the Industrial Estate which is located on the Cuxham side of Watlington. Watlington and Cuxham have a shared interest in limiting the volume, weight and speed of traffic passing through Cuxham. Any increase in the size of the Watlington Industrial Estate would have a direct impact on Cuxham and the village would retain an input in decisions if it remained in the Watlington Ward. Chalgrove has its own Industrial Estate which has very little impact on Cuxham provided the 7.5 ton limit is observed.
- Cuxham shares a Sewage works with Watlington. There has been some low level pollution from this Works in the past which has impacted on the stream in Cuxham; Watlington's SODC councillors have been very helpful with this matter. Chalgrove has its own Sewage Works which could never impact on Cuxham.
- Cuxham's Electricity and Gas also comes via Watlington, as with the sewerage issues above, issues in one locale may affect (or support) the other.

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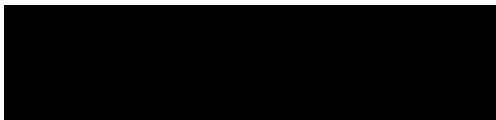
- Also, many of our older residents move to the Sheltered Housing/ Care Home in Watlington forming a special continuing family link between the two communities.
3. Promote effective and convenient local government. We feel that we would be better served by the Councillor from the Watlington Ward for all the reasons previously stated and that we share many common links with Watlington. Indeed, we feel that the proposed move to Chalgrove could significantly increase the workload of the Chalgrove Ward member as we have so few shared interests with Chalgrove and the other villages in that Ward.

Accompanying this letter is a petition signed by the villagers (70 signatures) objecting to your proposal to move us to the Chalgrove Ward. It is our wish to remain in the Watlington Ward and we request that you rethink your proposal.

Kind regards

Ann Voss, Chair, Cuxham with Easington Parish Meeting.

Hannah Wylde, Clerk, Cuxham with Easington Parish Meeting.



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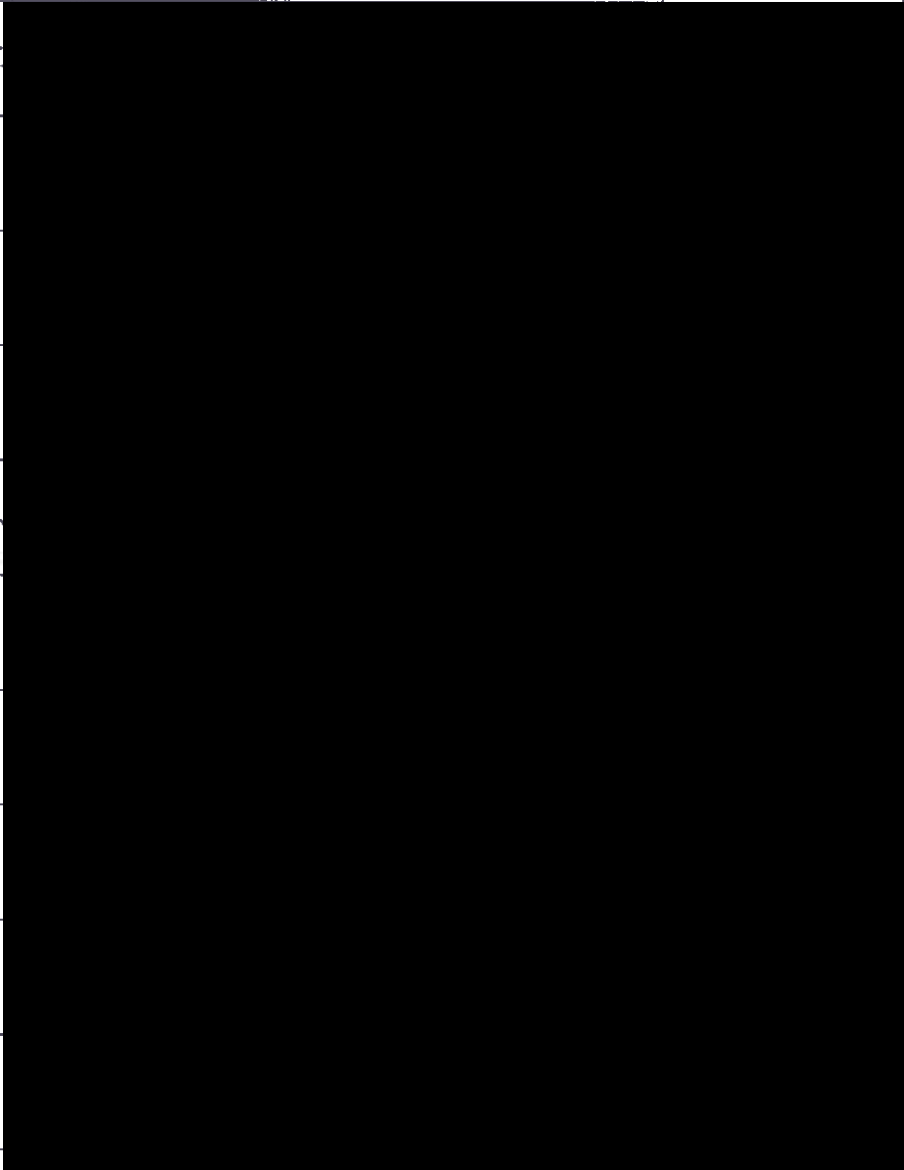
03 JAN 2011

PETITION

Dated..... December 2012

**Draft Recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for South
Oxfordshire District Council**

We, the undersigned, object to the proposal to join the parish of Cuxham with Easington into the single member Chalgrove Ward as proposed in the Electoral Review November 2012. We confirm that we wish Cuxham with Easington to remain in the single member Watlington Ward:

<u>SIGNATURES</u>		
NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
HANNAH WYLDE		
PHILIP WYLDE		
ALEXANDRA VOSS		
ANN VOSS		
CECILIA BRAFFIELD		
GUY Collinson		
Alex Collinson		
DAVID HARVEY		
Jill Atkins		
Jim Allias		

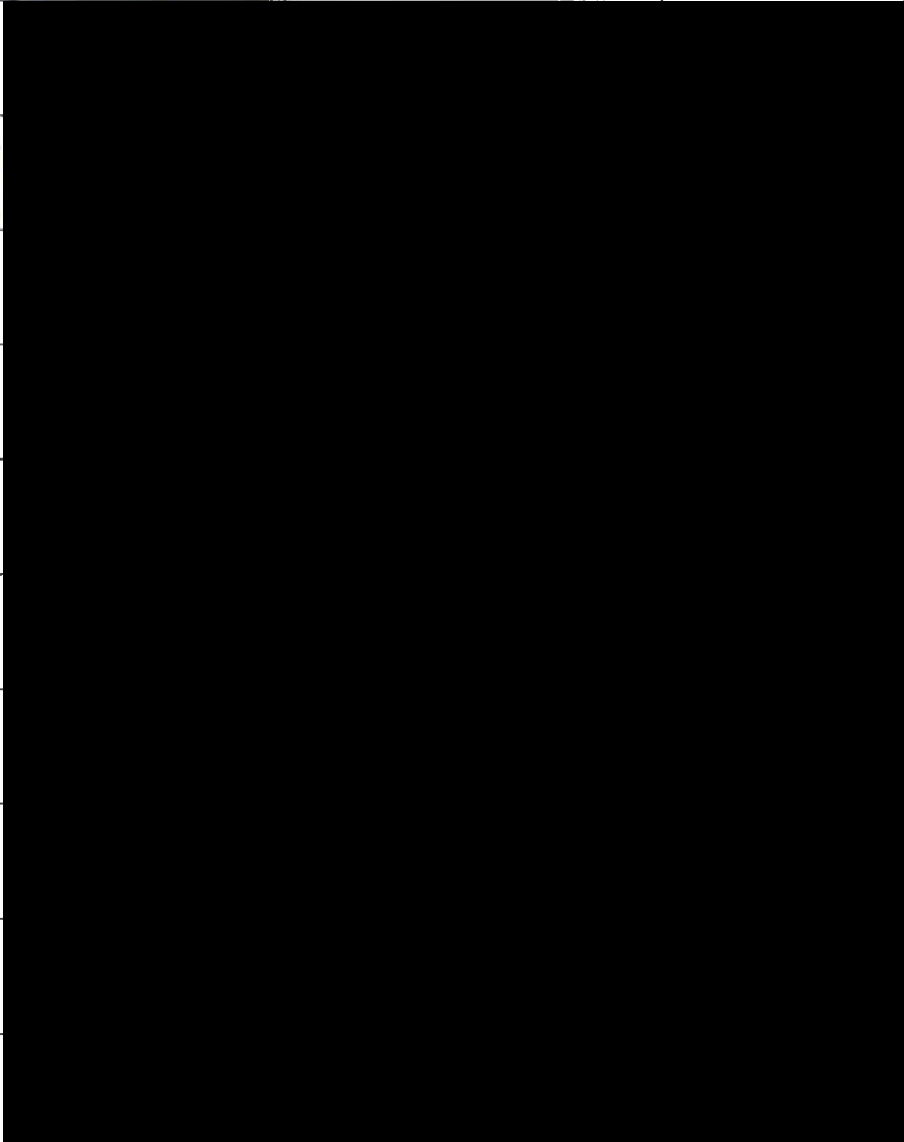
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<u>SIGNATURES</u>		
NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
Anne + Phill Parkes		
Luke PARUER		
Phill Parker.		
Sharon Colson		
Clive Sherwood		
Denise Smith		
GEOFF SMITH		
Joan A. Barker		
Norelle Cuff		
TERRANCE CUNNETT		

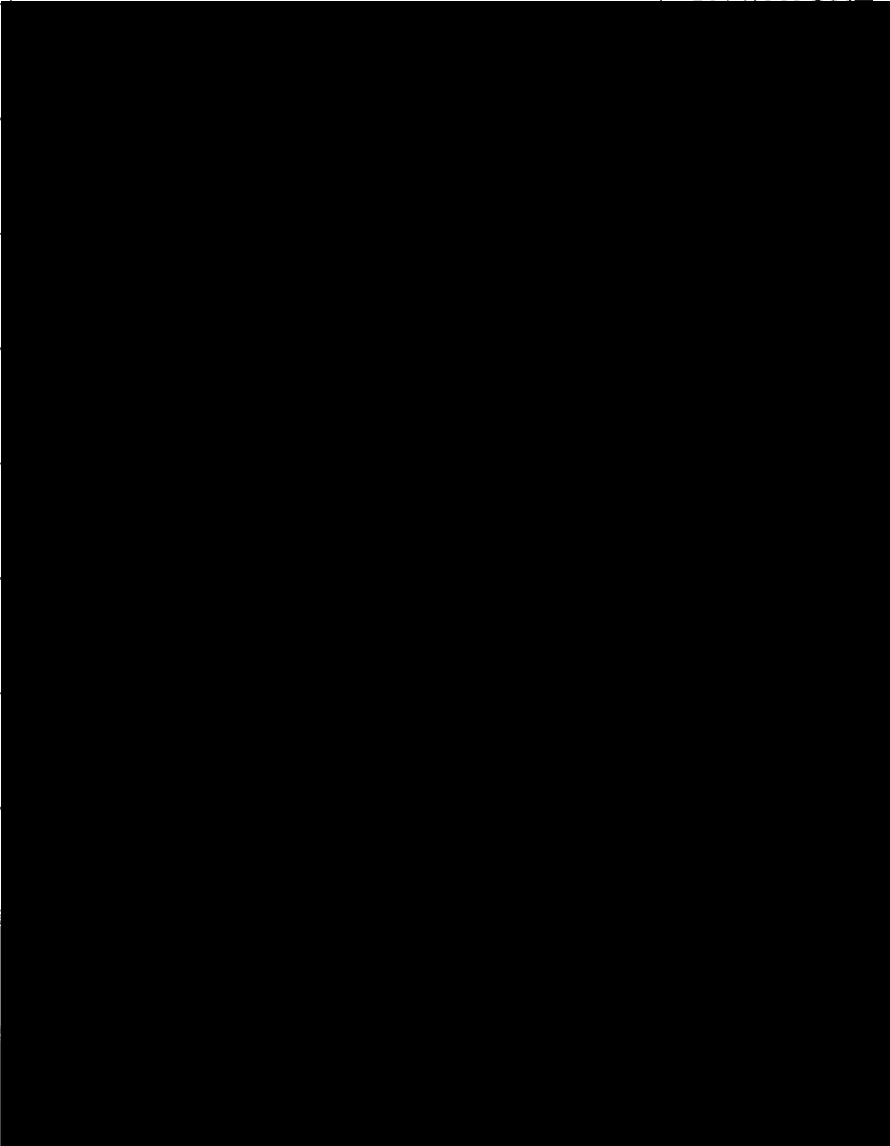
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<u>SIGNATURES</u>		
NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
R. Voss		
J. ATKINS JAMES		
S. Rigg		
J. Rigg		
Pen Nixey		
Frank Nixey		
LOUISE STILE		
VICTORIA ROBINSON		
Natalie Robinson		
Ben Robinson		

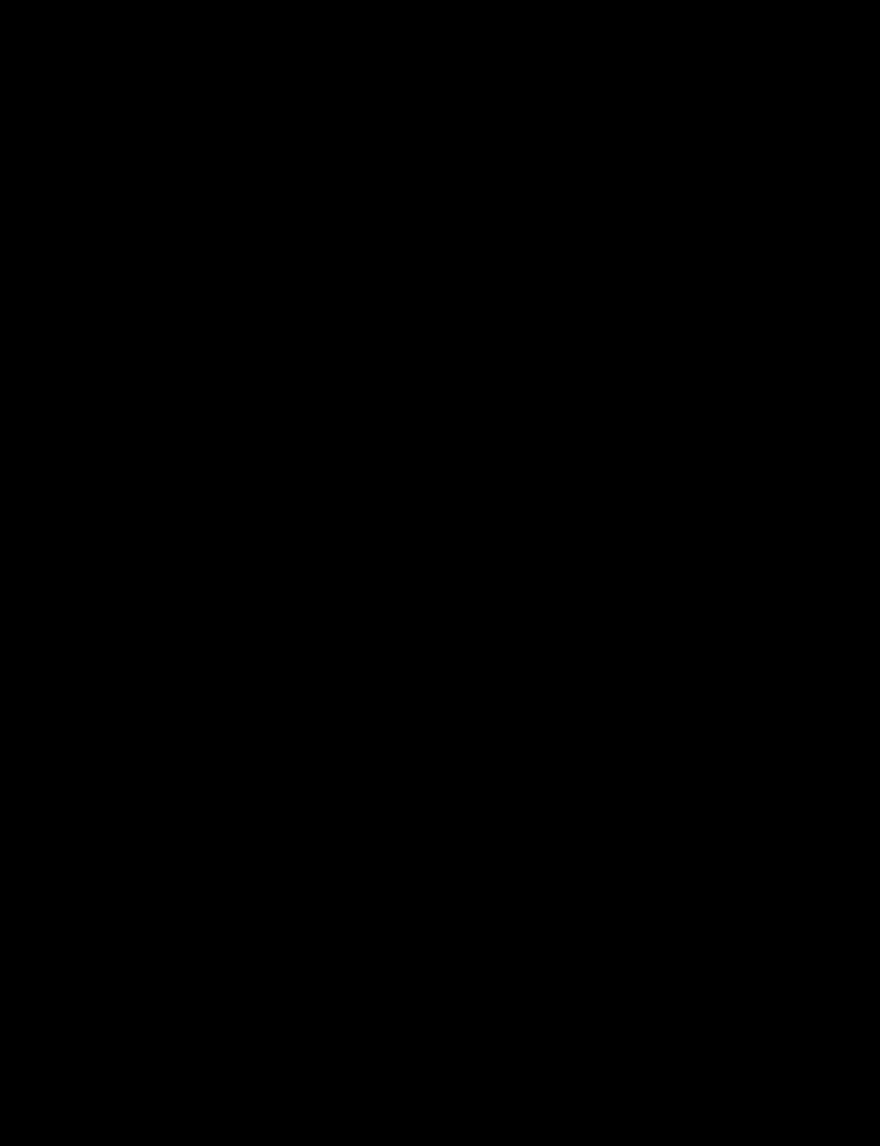
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<u>SIGNATURES</u>		
NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
T.M. ROBINSON		
B.M'DONALD		
J. JONES		
K.GOLDSMITH		
J.GOLDSMITH		
D.SAUNDERS		
Paul Williams		
C. WEYMOUTH		
Liz Robinson		
Vic ROBINSON		

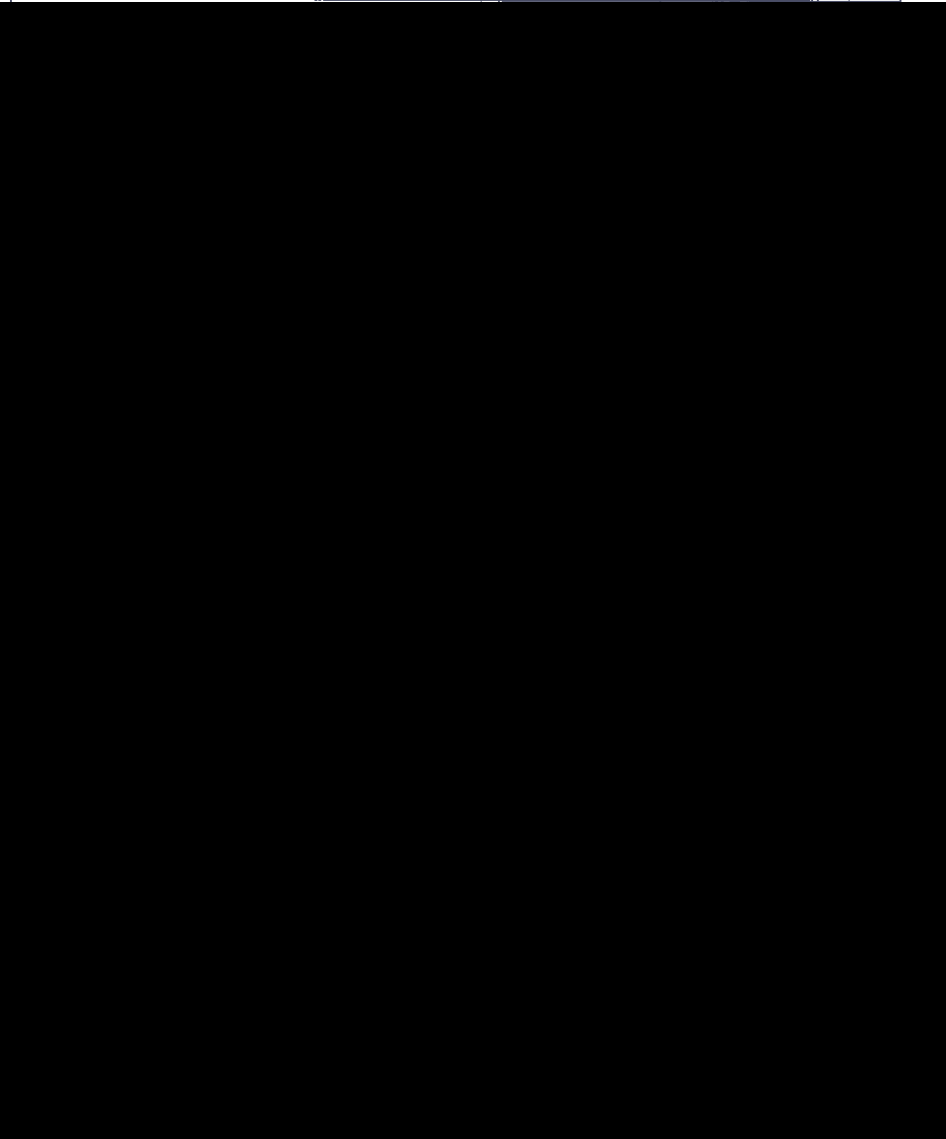
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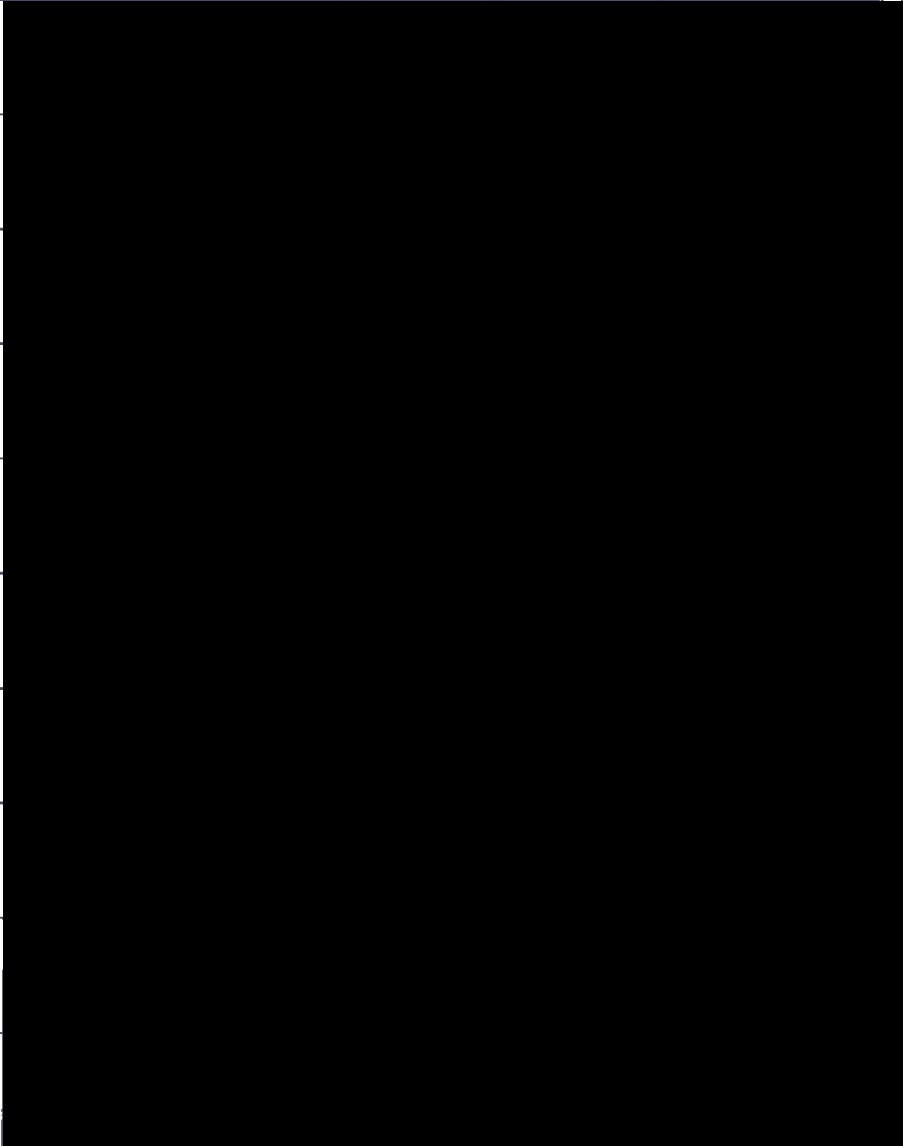
<u>SIGNATURES</u>		
NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
CICELY TAPPIN		
Renee Castle		
Carol Carr		
JOHN CARR		
CAROLE BARR		
DOUGIE BARR		
BRIAN BROWN		
M.J. NIXEY		
ANNE NIXEY		
J. BARRETT		

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<u>SIGNATURES</u>		
NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
C. REEDWOOD		
K WOODWARDS		
P M Gintyne		
W J P... ..		
Beryl A Murphy		
LESLIE MACE		
ROD MARRAME		
Sally Hayman		
GORDON HAYMAN		
RUTH HAYMAN		

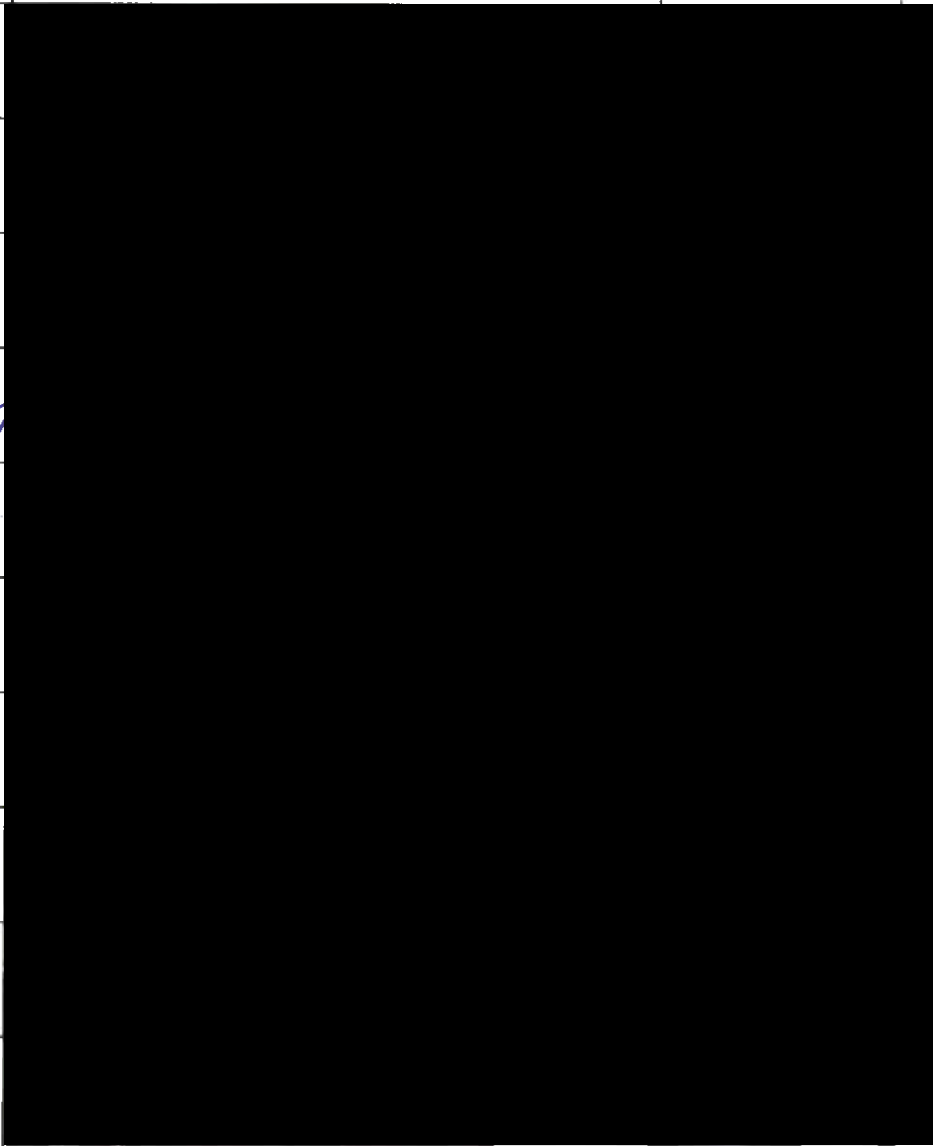
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<u>SIGNATURES</u>		
NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
FARRELL		
KIRSTEN		
BONNER		
HARWOOD		
SEYMOUR		
WHITESIDE		
WHITESIDE		
HART		
HART		
GORDON-HART		

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