

Supplementary Committee Agenda



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Electoral and Community Governance Review Committee Tuesday, 1st March, 2011

Place: Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping

Time: 7.30 pm

Democratic Services: Philippa Sewell - Office of the Chief Executive
Email: psewell@eppingforestdc.gov.uk Tel: 01992 564532

4. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - CURRENT POSITION (Pages 3 - 10)

To consider the report (to follow) on developments with the review since the last meeting concerning the stage two consultation.

5. STAGE TWO CONSULTATION MATERIAL AND REVISED TIMETABLE (Pages 11 - 28)

To consider a report (to follow).

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Report to the Electoral and Community Governance Review Committee

Date of Meeting: 1 March 2011

Item:

Subject: Community Governance Review - Moreton, Bobbingworth and The Lavers Parish Council

Officer Contract for Further Information: I Willett (01992 564243)

Committee Secretary: P Sewell (01992 564532)

Recommendations:

- (1) To consider the proposed boundary revision at Matching Green as agreed at the December 2010 site meeting;**
- (2) To note the position regarding changes to the Parliamentary Constituency boundary at Matching Green in the light of advice from the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC);**
- (3) To consider, subject to consultation, the principle of asking LGBC to make an order for aligning the District and County electoral boundaries at Matching Green to a new Parish boundary, taking account of:**
 - (a) cost implications of additional elections;**
 - (b) the need to avoid voter uncertainty if boundaries are configured differently;**
- (4) To consider, subject to consultation, whether an additional Parish election should be held in 2012 in Matching Parish taking account of any views of that Council about cost;**
- (5) To consider, subject to consultation, where the “out of sequence” District Ward election should held taking account of:**
 - (i) LGBC’s view on the electoral cycle;**
 - (ii) cost;**
 - (iii) the importance of synchronising this with any additional parish elections in Matching; and**
- (6) To incorporate these issues in the proposed consultation material.**

Report

1. At the last meeting, the Committee considered the results of the first round of consultation on the re-warding of MBL Parish by combining the three Lavers wards into a single ward entitled “The Lavers”.
2. The Committee made the following decisions:
 - (a) to proceed with the Lavers ward as a firm proposal;

- (b) to include the following in the second stage consultation:
 - (i) a parish boundary change in Matching Green village with the objective of including the whole village in Matching Parish;
 - (ii) the possibility of increasing the number of Parish Councillors in Matching Parish to reflect an increase in its electorate;
 - (iii) the possibility of reducing the number of Parish Councillors in MBL to reflect a reduction in its electorate;
 - (iv) approval of a revised timescale for completing the community governance review;
 - (v) including reference to the timing of Parish Council elections on the basis of a new parish boundary in the consultation;
 - (vi) including in the consultation consequential effects on District and County Council electoral wards/divisions.
3. In addition, the Committee called for further consultation with Matching and MBL Parish Councils on the new boundary in Matching Green, together with liaison with the Boundary and Local Government Boundary Commissions on the effect of the suggested Parish boundary change on the same Parliamentary, County Council Division and District Ward boundaries.

New Matching Green Parish Boundary

- 4. A site meeting was held on 9 December 2010 at Matching Green. This was attended by the Parish Clerks from MBL and Matching, Parish Councillors from each Council, the District Ward Councillors for Moreton & Fyfield and for Hastingwood, Matching and Sheering Village. The existing boundary was walked and agreement reached on how it might be altered to include the whole village in Matching Parish.
- 5. A map showing this boundary will be shown at the meeting.

Liaison with the Parliamentary and Local Government Boundary Commissions regarding the Other Common Electoral Boundaries

- 6. The Parliamentary Constituency Boundary (Harlow/Brentwood and Ongar) is dealt with by the Parliamentary Boundary Commission. A letter was sent to that Commission seeking informal views about its likely attitude to a Parish boundary change at Matching Green. No reply has been received to date. This is not altogether surprising in that a national review of constituencies has suffered a protracted period of debate in Parliament.
- 7. A reply was, however, received from the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) (see Appendix 1). The most important advice in that letter is:
 - (a) the Commission is unlikely to have any difficulty with making an order to amend the District and County electoral boundaries if this Council decides to make its own order to change the Parish boundary;
 - (b) the Commission will stipulate in its order that an additional election would be required at District level to reinstate the normal electoral cycle;

(c) the Commission will ask which of the District Wards should have an “out of turn” election;

(d) the Commission recommends that Essex County Council should be consulted about (c) above.

8. The LGBC has also commented on the Parliamentary Constituency Boundary issue. It is clear that whatever changes are made to the other boundaries, the Parliamentary boundary will only change as part of the forthcoming review and not before.

Commentary on LGBC Advice – Parliamentary Constituencies

9. It now seems that the Parliamentary Constituency boundary will not change as a result of this review. The relevant Commission is, subject to the current legislation, due to report to Parliament on its review by October 2013. The intention is to have the new constituencies in place in time for the next General Election in 2015.
10. If a General Election were to be called before 2015, it seems certain that this would take place on the present boundaries. In Matching Green, if the other boundaries have been altered, such a General Election would mean that some Matching Green residents would still vote in the Harlow Constituency election. To avoid voter uncertainty, polling arrangements would need careful planning and publicity if this happens.
11. A summary of this advice should be included in the consultation material to be supplied as part of this review.

Commentary on LGBC Advice – County Divisions and District Wards

12. It now seems that these boundaries can (unlike the Parliamentary boundary) be changed by an order of the LGBC. The Commission appears to regard the transfer of electorate as not significant enough to trigger a wholesale review of the District and County arrangements in this District.
13. The complication is that the LGBC intends to make provision in that order for an “out of cycle” election for one of the two District Wards involved. Currently, elections are scheduled as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| Matching etc DW | 2011 |
| Matching Parish | 2011 |
| Moreton and Fyfield DW | 2012 |
| MBL Parish | 2012 |
| Essex CC | 2013 |
| North Weald and Nazeing CD | 2014 |
| Ongar and Rural CD | 2014 |

14. It seems likely that the Parish boundary change could be implemented from 2012, the year of the MBL elections and one year after the Matching Parish elections this year.
15. LGBC is likely to adopt a similar approach to the District Ward elections for Matching and Moreton & Fyfield. There would clearly be an advantage in

synchronising the additional Parish and District Council elections to save costs. A possible scenario is as follows:

| | |
|--|------|
| Matching PC /Matching etc DW | 2011 |
| Matching PC /Matching etc DW) MBL PC election/Moreton & Fyfield DW) | 2012 |

16. An alternative is to not hold a Parish Council election in Matching until 2015 even if the boundary does change. This will save the Parish council costs but will mean that the Matching Green residents who transfer will not have say in their elected members until 2015.
17. This Council will be asked which of the two District Council wards should have the additional election.
18. This issue needs to be aired in the consultation material.

Consultation with Parish Councils

19. Copies of the proposed consultation material were sent for comment to MBL and Matching Parish Councils. Appendix 2 shows a response from MBL. To date comments have not been received from Matching PC.
20. The comments on the consultation material by MBL are dealt with in a separate report. Under this report, the Committee should consider:
 - (a) concerns expressed about the complexity of the consultation; and
 - (b) concerns about consulting individual electors rather than households in Matching Green (ie MBL part).
21. The number of electors in Matching Green is 164 in 99 households. Dealing with individual electors rather than households will increase costs but in the context of a wider consultation at stage 2 which will be more expensive anyway. For the 3 Lavers wards at Stage 1 the cost of a postal questionnaire was approximately £300 for 316 households. There are 273 households in Matching Parish.
21. The Committee should review its stage 2 consultation as indicated in the recommendations at the commencement of this report.

Ecclesiastical Boundaries

22. This issue was raised during the discussion on site at Matching Green. A map will be displayed showing this boundary but it is felt that this need not complicate the proposed Parish boundary change.

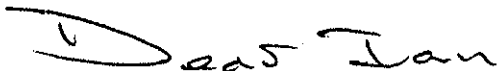
The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

Ian Willett
Returning Officer
Epping Forest District Council
Civic Offices
High Street
Epping CM16 4BZ

c.c. Colin Thompson
E. Kenworthy
J. Phillip
7.2.11

4 February 2011

Your ref: PU/IW/ER/11/5/2

 Dear Ian

POTENTIAL REQUEST FOR A RELATED ALTERATION ORDER

Thank you for your letter of 1 February about a potential request your Council may make to the Commission for a related alteration order, to re-align district ward and county division boundaries to an altered parish boundary. We spoke about the issues likely to be raised by such a request

As you recognise in your letter, I cannot commit the Commission to any decision it might make should a formal request be received. The Commission would need to give full and detailed consideration to all the relevant information, including current and five-year forecasts of the electorates in the district wards and county divisions affected, before reaching any conclusions. However, purely on the basis of the levels of electoral equality in the two wards that might be affected, and the levels of electoral equality across the remainder of district wards, I would be minded to recommend to the Commission that it agrees to a request.

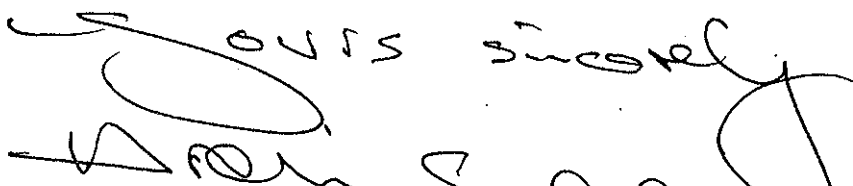
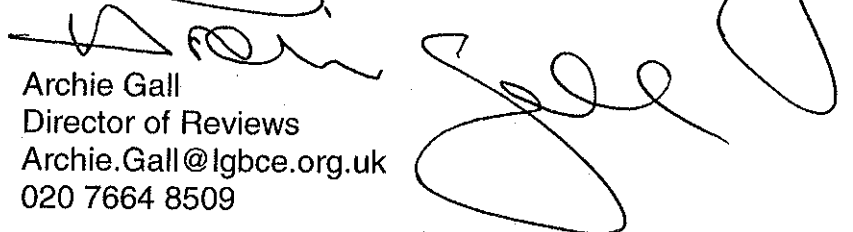
However, as I mentioned when we spoke, there are certain consequences of which your Council should be made aware. Your Council elects by thirds, and you informed me that the two district wards affected by any related alterations order do not hold election in the same year. Accordingly, to implement any order, the Commission would need to provide for out-of-turn elections in one of the two wards. This means that the councillor for that ward would have his/her term of office cut short. Provision would then be made

in the order to return that ward to its normal electoral cycle. You Council would be asked for its view on which ward should have the out-of-turn election.

Given that there is also a potential change to a county division boundary, the agreement of the county council should be sought to that proposed change.

Finally, the papers enclosed with your letter suggest that, should the Commission make a related alteration order, the Parliamentary constituency boundary would automatically change. As we discussed, that is not the case. Parliamentary constituency boundaries can only change as a consequence of a review by the (Parliamentary) Boundary Commission for England.

I hope this is helpful. If you have any other queries on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact my colleague, Daniel Knag (Daniel.knag@lgbce.org.uk; tel 020 7664 8521).

Archie Gall
Director of Reviews
Archie.Gall@lgbce.org.uk
020 7664 8509

Moreton, Bobbingworth & the Lavers Parish Council

2, Landview Cottages, Moreton, Chipping Ongar, Essex, CM5 OLE 01277 890394

18 February, 2011

Our Ref. CNT 1369

Mr. Ian Willett
Epping Forest District Council
Civic Offices
High Street
Epping, Essex
CM16 4BZ

APPENDIX 2

Dear Ian,

Governance Review – Consultation Document Review.

We have now finished reviewing the second stage draft documents you sent to us. Despite being deeply involved in this Community Review we find the process to be very complicated and are concerned that our residents will be even more confused. We have therefore spent considerable time with our review and tried to ensure the residents are able to understand their options, so that they can make an informed decision.

The first key point we would like to make is that as we are embarking on a fundamental change of electoral boundaries, we must make sure the electorate are properly consulted. To that end, we believe the **individual electors** currently in MBL must be consulted. We have been advised that some households have mixed views on the boundary change proposals and they should be able to express that. The initial consultation was carried out at House Holder level and while that is satisfactory for that purpose, we do not believe it is right for the second consultation. We are content if the other residents in the rest of the Lavers and Matching Parish are consulted at House Holder level.

We also do not believe the proposed boundary already agreed, should be changed to match the Ecclesiastical boundary as it is much deeper into High Laver, does not follow physical land features and would increase the number of residents leaving High Laver.

Review Process

We have annotated a copy of your draft document with our proposed changes in RED and struck through those words to be deleted.

On studying the main second stage document, we found the sequence of elements regarding the other boundary changes to be confusing and believe these should be re-sequenced to give a more logical approach to the document.

We have therefore moved paragraphs F & G forward in front of A, giving a new sequence F G A B C D E H, which we have shown highlighted in green. For clarity of the revision, we did not re-letter/number the paragraphs at this time but clearly, they will have to be altered on the final document, if you approve of the changes.

Yours sincerely,



Colin Thompson

Clerk to the Parish Council.

Report to the Electoral and Community Governance Review Committee

Date of Meeting: 1 March 2011

Item: 5

Subject: Community Governance Review – Stage 2 Consultation and Revised Timetable

Officer Contract for Further Information: I Willett (01992 564243)

Committee Secretary: P Sewell (01992 564532)

Recommendations:

- (1) To approve a further revision to the timescale for the completion of this review as set out in Appendix 1;**
- (2) To consider the scope of the stage 2 consultation namely:
 - (a) households in The Lavers;**
 - (b) households in Matching Parish; and**
 - (c) households or electors in Matching Green (MBL part);**and whether consultation could be restricted to Matching Green only.**
- (3) To consider, as suggested by Matching, Bobbingworth and The Lavers Parish Council, that consultation with Matching Green residents affected by the change should be conducted for all electors, not households.**
- (4) To confirm that priority should be given to the expressed views of Matching Green residents affected by the change if wider consultation is sought.**
- (5) To approve the consultation documents set out as follows:
Appendix 2 - Consultation Document
Appendix 3 - Matching Parish Council letter
Appendix 4 - Matching Parish Council questionnaire
Appendix 5 - Matching, Bobbingworth and The Lavers Parish Council letter
Appendix 6 - Matching, Bobbingworth and The Lavers Parish Council questionnaire**

1. This report deals with the stage 2 consultation on the review.

Timescale

2. The legislation requires that a community governance review must be completed over a period of one year from its inception. It is recommended that the election period should be avoided in respect of the stage 2 consultation so as to minimise voter uncertainty about the May 2011 elections.
3. The Committee is therefore asked to approve the new timescale.

Scope of Consultation

4. It is proposed to carry out consultation with the electorate for the three Lavers wards and Matching Parish Council. Special arrangements will be made to highlight the views of Matching Green electors. The rationale behind this approach is:
 - (a) that all Lavers electors need to be told that the re-warding is going forward as a firm proposal and that a boundary change at Matching Green may come about;
 - (b) that all Matching residents are aware of the possible boundary change at Matching Green; and
 - (c) that responses by Matching Green electors who are directly affected by the Parish boundary change can be easily identified.
5. The Council is required to consult with persons and organisations affected by a change in community governance. It is possible to run an argument that consultation should only be with Matching Green Village electors (MBL Part) as they are the only ones directly affected. Matching Parish and the remaining electors of The Lavers could simply be informed (rather than consulted).
6. Matching, Bobbingworth and The Lavers Parish Council has raised the issue of consultation in Matching Green being based on individual electors instead of households, as this will give a better picture of local opinion.
7. The Committee is asked to reach a view on these issues.

Consultation Document

8. The Appendices show a draft consultation document, questionnaires and electors' letters for approval. This requires:
 - (a) amendment on points agreed at this meeting;
 - (b) inclusion of information of the financial effect of the boundary change on the basis of precepts by the two Councils; and
 - (c) information on District and County ward/division electorate growth over 5 years.
9. The emboldened sections of the documents are suggestions by Matching, Bobbingworth and The Lavers Parish Council for changes.
10. The Committee is asked to consider these documents in preparation for the launch of consultation.

| Date | Event |
|---------------|---|
| 1/3/2011 | Meeting of the Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agree consultation material - agree revised timetable - report Parish Council comments |
| 25/3/2011 | Launch consultation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Matching/MBL residents - 2 MPs - 2 Parish Councils - Essex County Council - 3 Local District and Parish Councillors - Church |
| 15/4/2011 | Close of consultation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consolidate information - comments of LGBC/BC |
| w/c 16/5/2011 | Meeting of the Community Governance Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - review second stage consultation - formulate final proposals and recommendations to the Council |
| 16/6/2011 | Despatch of Council Agenda |
| 28/6/2011 | Council Meeting |
| 30.6.2011 | DEADLINE |

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COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE – MORETON, BOBBINGWORTH AND THE LAVERS PARISH COUNCIL (MBL)

SECOND STAGE CONSULTATION

APPENDIX 2

Background

1. All households in the Parish Wards of High Laver, Magdalen Laver and Little Laver were consulted last year regarding the proposal to combine the three Lavers parish wards into one new parish ward within MBL.
2. Residents were asked to indicate whether they supported this change which would:
 - (a) align the electorate/Councillor ratios in the Lavers wards more closely with the other wards in MBL and thereby achieve better equality of representation; and
 - (b) reduce election costs as the three parish wards elections would be cheaper than the present five.

Results of Consultation

3. **Of 285 Households (166 High Laver, 32 Little Laver 87 Magdalen Laver) 102 residents** responded to the Council's Consultation. Of those responses, 86 supported the reduction in the number of wards and 16 did not.
4. The District Council has reviewed this result and considers that there is substantial support for the change and will now take this forward as a firm proposal. A map showing the new wards is attached as Appendix 1.
5. **Some residents As part of this consultation 20 of the Householders of in the Matching Green part of MBL Parish** raised the boundary between MBL Parish and the neighbouring Parish Council of Matching in their responses. They drew attention to the way in which the boundary divides the village in two and sought a change whereby the whole of the village could be included in Matching Parish Council.
6. Aside from the boundary itself, those residents raised the following issues in support of changing the boundary:
 - (a) there is an obvious community of interest between Matching Green residents on both sides of the boundary;
 - (b) that Matching Green is at the edge of MBL Parish and therefore have limited community of interest with the rest of that Parish.
- ~~7. The Council noted that a minority of residents did not agree with the proposed change in the boundary and that a considerable number of Matching Green residents did not comment at all.~~
7. The District Council has reviewed these responses and has concluded that there is a sufficient body of opinion to warrant a further consultation on the boundary.

How Could the Boundary be Changed?

9. Officials from the District Council have met with representatives of both MBL and Matching Parishes in Matching Green and have walked the boundary together.

The District Council has been much assisted by the local knowledge of the two Parish Councils in identifying the route of a possible new boundary which could be used if the local community supports the change.

- ... 10. Appendix 2 shows the present parish boundary in red whilst a possible revision is shown in green. The District Council is required by the law to take account of the following factors when examining the desirability of altering Parish boundaries:
- (a) whether change would respect community links; and
 - (b) whether the area is such that a boundary change is of a kind which does not compromise other community links.
11. The map shown in Appendix 2 is supported by the District Council and the two Parish Councils as a basis for consultation. Residents who live in the area between the red and green lines will have to tell the District Council whether they wish to transfer to Matching or remain in MBL as now.

(f) How are the Other Boundaries Changed?

20. **The District Council is only able to change Parish Council boundaries. The District Council must ask the Local Government Boundary Commission to make an order to align the District and County boundaries with the new parish boundary. Likewise, another Commission would have to deal with the Parliamentary boundary.**

21. **The District Council would be very concerned about changing the parish boundary without ensuring that the other boundaries will be the same. It would be very confusing to voters if this were to happen. Advice will be sought on the likely attitude of the Commission to changes to other boundaries. The results will be very influential in determining whether the parish change can go ahead. The District Council has sought clarification on this point.**

(g) What is the effect on the District Wards, County Electoral Divisions and Parliamentary Constituencies?

22. **Currently the elector/Councillor ratios are as follows:**

| Ward | Current Electorate | New Electorate | No of Councillors | Present Ratio | New Ratio |
|--|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Moreton and Fyfield District Ward | 1,731 | 1,572 | 1 | 1:1731 | 1:1,572 |
| Matching, Hastingwood and Sheering Village District Ward | 1,686 | 1,845 | 1 | 1:1686 | 1:1,845 |
| North Weald and Nazeing County Division | 13,663 | 14,882 | 1 | 1:13,663 | 1:13,822 |
| Ongar and Rural | 11,896 | 11,737 | 1 | 1:11,896 | 1:11,737 |

County Division

23. After the boundary change at Matching Green, the figures are as follows:

| Constituency | Present Electorate | New Electorate | No of MPs | Present Ratio | New Ratio |
|---|--------------------|----------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| Harlow | | | 1 | | |
| Ongar and Rural Brentwood & Ongar | | | 1 | | |

Those Residents (detailed at point 11, living in the area between the red & green lines) Would move from the current Brentwood & Ongar constituency to the Harlow constituency

24. It is known that a review of Parliamentary boundaries is due.

(a) Polling Arrangements

12. Currently Matching Green residents who are in MBL vote at Matching School. If the boundary changes, it is likely that those electors will vote at Matching Village Hall along with the other voters from Matching Parish. Those electors who remain in High Laver wards would continue to vote in Matching Green School or Magdalen Laver Village Hall, depending on which parts of the new Lavers ward they live in.

(b) Number of Councillors

13. Currently MBL comprises 14 Councillors and Matching 7. The current elector/Councillor ratios are as follows:

Matching

| | Electorate | No of Councillors | Current Ratio (Councillor/Elector) |
|--|------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| | 544 | 7 | 1:77.77 |

MBL

| | | | |
|----------------|-----|---|---------|
| High Laver | 342 | 4 | 1:85.50 |
| Little Laver | 70 | 2 | 1:35.00 |
| Magdalen Laver | 183 | 2 | 1:91.5 |
| Moreton | 276 | 3 | 1:92.00 |
| Bobbingworth | 218 | 3 | 1:72.66 |

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----------|--|
| Total: | 1089 | 14 | |
|---------------|-------------|-----------|--|

14. The boundary change shown in Appendix 2 would transfer 164 electors from High Laver (159) and Little Laver (5) to Matching Parish. The effect of this is shown in the table which follows:

Matching

| Existing Electorate | + Housing Growth | +/- Matching Green Transfer | New Electorate | New Ratio (Cllr/Elector) |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| 544 | +18 | +164 | 726 | 1:103.71 |

(c) What are the figures for Housing Growth?

15. These are an allowance for the number of additional electors which could be generated by housing development in the area over the next five years. It is a requirement that they are taken into account of in considering boundaries. These figures are derived from planning consents which are pending or which may never have been enacted or other sites which may be considered for residential development.

MBL

| Existing Electorate/ Ward | Present Electorate | +Housing Growth | +/- Matching Green Transfer | New Electorate | Ratio (Cllr/Elector) |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Bobbingworth | 218 | +13 | N/A | 231 | 1:77 |
| High Laver | 342 | +14 | - 159 | 197 | 1:49.25 |
| Little Laver | 70 | +13 | - 5 | 78 | 1:36.00 |
| Magdalen Laver | 183 | + 13 | N/A | 196 | 1:98.00 |
| Moreton | 276 | +13 | N/A | 289 | 1:92.11 |
| TOTAL | 1089 | | | 991 | |

(d) **Councillors in the two Parish Councils are not paid or claim expenses. Should the Number of Parish Councillors in MBL Moreton, Bobbingworth & the Lavers PC or Matching PC, Change as a Result of the Boundary Change?**

16. The lower number of voters in High Laver and Little Laver wards may make a case for reducing the number of Parish Councillors in MBL. By the same token, an increase in the number of electors in Matching could be said to support an increase in the number of Parish Councillors there.
17. The views of local residents on whether, for instance, there should be one or two fewer **Unpaid** Councillors in MBL and one or two more **unpaid Councillors** in Matching is a matter which the District Council would wish to receive views.

(e) What is the effect on District Council and County Electoral Division Boundaries and Parliamentary Constituency Areas?

18. The boundary between Matching and MBL Parish is unusual in that it is also the boundary between:
- (i) the two District wards of Hastingwood, Matching and Sheering Village with Moreton and Fyfield;
 - (ii) the County electoral divisions of North Weald and Nazeing with Ongar & Rural; and
 - (iii) the Parliamentary Constituencies of Harlow with Brentwood & Ongar.
19. If the boundary change at Matching Green were also made to these other boundaries, those Residents **(detailed at point 11, living in the area between the red & green lines)** would be in a new District Ward (Hastingwood, matching and Sheering Village), a new County Electoral Division **(Ongar and Rural) North Weald & Nazeing** and a new Parliamentary Constituency **(Brentwood and Ongar) Harlow**

(h) What are the Financial Implications of the Boundary Change?

25. All parish and town councils produce a Council Tax precept for each financial year. This precept is a levy on each property in their area sufficient to fund the cost of services they provide. This precept total is then collected on parish councils' behalf by the District Council.
26. For this purpose, each Council has a Council Tax Base reflecting the number of residential properties in the parish. The more such properties are in the parish, the greater is the multiplier which can be used to determine the precept.
27. It follows from this that if 98 properties transfer to Matching, the Council Tax base for MBL will be smaller and that for Matching larger. A comparison of the 2010/11 Council Tax Base figures is as follows:
- Matching
- MBL
28. The changes in the Council Tax base will inevitably affect the decisions of the two parish councils on their budgets in future years. MBL will have a smaller pool of properties from which to precept and may therefore need to review either increasing the precept to maintain services or reduce **the cost of or** services funded from the precept.
29. For Matching Parish Council, the Council Tax base will be larger. That Council could then review whether its current precept is too high or whether more could be spent on services, if this precept is the same. It should be emphasised that these matters will be for the Parish Council concerned to decide, not the District Council. These changes would not come into operation until 2012/13 at the earliest.
30. Any change in warding and the number of Councillors will also affect the cost of elections.

Ecclesiastical Boundaries

31. MBL and Matching are civil parishes. The map in Appendix 3 shows the ecclesiastical parish boundary which has been supplied by the Church Authorities. It is likely that if the civil parishes change, the church parishes would remain the same.

Conclusions

32. The District Council now wishes to hear from residents of the Lavers about the suggested boundary change. The Council must give most weight to the views of the Matching Green community which is currently in High Laver and Little Laver as it is those residents who will be directly affected.
33. A similar consultation is being undertaken with all Matching Parish residents regarding the boundary change but as existing Matching Parish residents will not be directly affected by the boundary change, their views will not influence the Council's decision on the boundary change.

NOTE:

RESIDENTS SHOULD NOTE THAT THE BOUNDARY CHANGE WILL NOT AFFECT THE BOUNDARIES WHICH WILL BE USED FOR THE MATCHING PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN MAY 2011. ANY NEW BOUNDARIES WILL TAKE EFFECT AFTER THAT DATE.

Date:

APPENDIX 3

Our ref: PU/IW/ER/11/5/2

Your ref:

Householders in Matching Parish

Ian Willett 01992 564243
Email: iwillett@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Dear Householder

Community Governance Review – Matching Green

You may be aware that a community governance review has been in progress in Moreton, Bobbingworth and The Lavers (MBL) Parish Council. This concerned the number of wards in that Parish Council area and a proposal to reduce this number from five to three, by combining the 3 parish wards of High, Little and Magdalen Laver into one.

The District Council consulted residents in those wards and the re-warding received very strong support. The District Council has now accepted this change as a firm proposal and will aim to bring it into effect for the MBL elections in 2012.

One issue which arose from the consultation was the boundary between MBL and your Parish Council, Matching. This centred on the village of Matching Green where **19 Households a number of residents in the MBL part of the village** asked for the review to be extended to deal with that boundary. It is to explore this further that I am now writing to Matching Parish residents.

The District Council is carrying out this consultation with Matching residents in two ways:

(a) Residents of Matching Green who are in the MBL area-Parish

These residents will be directly affected by a change in the boundary. That change would see all of Matching Green in Matching Parish. They are being asked separately to say whether they support this plan. Other residents of MBL who live in The Lavers are also being asked for their views, although they will not be affected and therefore their responses will not carry the same weight.

(b) Residents of Matching Parish

You are being consulted about the proposed boundary change even though you are not directly affected. You are also being asked to consider the number of Councillors which Matching Parish should have in the future, bearing in mind the number of electors in part of Matching Green who would transfer across.

... You will find a form and a pre-paid return envelope for your use. Also enclosed is a consultation report which I encourage you to read. Please help the District Council to make a decision on this issue which reflects the wishes and best interests of the Community.

Yours sincerely

Ian Willett
Assistant to Chief Executive

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COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – PARISH BOUNDARY AT MATCHING GREEN

CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

APPENDIX 4

1. Do you support the boundary change at Matching Green so that the whole village is within Matching Parish? YES

NO

(Please tick one box)

2. If the boundary changes, do you think that Matching Parish Council should have more than 7 Councillors to deal with the additional electors in the Parish? YES

NO

(Please tick one box)

MY DETAILS

Name: _____

Address: _____

Your name and address is requested purely to verify that you are eligible to be consulted, being a resident of the area under review. The information will not be published and not used for any other purpose.

Please return this pro forma in the envelope provided to Mr I Willett, Returning Officer, Epping Forest District Council in the pre paid envelope provided.

Please return by 15 April 2011

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Date:

Our ref: PU/IW/JES/ER/11/5/2

Your ref:

APPENDIX 5

Householders in the Parish Wards of
High Laver, Little Laver and
Magdalen Laver

Ian Willett 01992 564243
Email: iwillett@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Dear Householder

**Community Governance Review – Moreton, Bobbingworth and
The Lavers Parish Council (MBL)**

The District Council consulted you last year on the first stage of this review.

This letter is designed to let you know the outcome of that consultation and to consult you further about another matter which was raised by **19** residents of Matching Green. The District Council would now like your views by 15 April 2011 on whether the parish boundary between MBL and Matching Parishes should be altered so that the whole of Matching Green Village is within the **latter Matching Parish**.

The Council will give a preference to the views of those residents who will be directly affected by the change, i.e. those **who live** within the area **between the red and green lines** shown on Appendix 2 of the enclosed consultation document. The views of other residents of The Lavers would be helpful too.

I hope you will help the District Council to decide whether the suggested change in the boundary is supported by the local residents and is in the best interests of the community.

Yours sincerely

Ian Willett
Assistant to Chief Executive

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COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – MORETON, BOBBINGWORTH AND THE LAVERS PARISH COUNCIL

APPENDIX 6

CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Do you support the principle of changing the Parish Boundary in Matching Green **so that the whole village is within Matching Parish and no longer in Moreton, Bobbingworth & the Lavers Parish?** Yes No
(Please tick one box)
2. Do you support the new Parish boundary shown on the map in Appendix 2 to the consultation report? Yes No
(Please tick one box)
3. Do you support **having fewer a reduction in the number of** Parish Councillors representing the new Lavers ward if the boundary change takes place? Yes No
(Please tick one box)

MY DETAILS:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Your name and address is requested purely to verify that you are eligible to be consulted, being a resident of the area under review. The information will not be published and not used for any other purpose.

Please return this pro forma in the envelope provided to Mr I Willett, Returning Officer, Epping Forest District Council in the pre paid envelope provided.

The closing date is: 15 April 2011

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