

**Rural residents request for a boundary review part of the Greensted Ward under the Community governance review 2007 act.**

Greensted Ward is made up of approximately two hundred and ninety one households (291) of which approximately sixty (60) rural houses may be affected by a change in the ward boundary.

The houses are scattered along and near to Greensted Road, Drapers Corner, Greensted Green and Toot Hill Road, a stretch of approximately three miles leading out of Chipping Ongar. They form small clusters or lone properties. This geographical area is a narrow stretch bordered by Bobbingworth to one side and Stanford Rivers the other, with undefined boundaries

Because of the spread of houses there is a the lack of a community identity with the resident's forming a disparate group, with the Greensted Church being the only focus with which local residents can identify with.

The residents recognise the Introduction of the "Guidance on community governance reviews" gives them the opportunity to request a review that may correct what they believe is a boundary anomaly and put in place a strong clearly defined boundary that is tied to firm ground features, and with the removal of the anomalous Ongar Town parish boundary that currently exists.

A number of rural residents have made their views known, i.e. that the community governance review ought to bring about improved community engagement, better local democracy and result in more effective and convenient delivery of local services, relating to households of a similar disposition.

A considerable number of issues/problems that face rural residents are at variance with those people who reside in the conurbation of Ongar, and it is difficult for those residents in the town to feel engaged with rural priorities. People living in the town do not normally have to worry about:

- Drainage/sewage
- Pavements,
- Street lighting
- Power cuts from overhead power lines.
- Country Lanes with speeding vehicles and lorries that are far too large and wide for the road endangering residents lives (national speed limit 60mph)

The problem of being a minority group in a parish where the issues are centred on the town has been a long standing one which over the years has encouraged apathy to take hold, with residents having no input to the environment that they live in. It is important that local people have empathy with their neighbours who face similar day to day issues and able to relate with them.

The majority of the houses who may be affected by change are already geographically nearer to Stanford Rivers/Bobbingworth than they are to Ongar. The name change from Ongar Parish Council to Ongar Town Council has further reinforced the perception that the OTC interests are centred in the town forgoing the parish.

Using the electoral role of those houses in the rural part of Greensted Ward a sample of residents were asked if they felt a community governance review should be conducted by EFDC with consideration being given to change the current boundary (see attached sheets).

- 57 houses on the electoral role, which consisted of 105 names,
- 38 households visited (66.6%)
- 68 residents were surveyed
- 66 would like a review (97%)
  - \*1 against,
  - \*1 don't really know

(\*they were unsure if change would result in an improvement in their lives).

The above sample clearly shows the strength of feeling for a review of the Greensted Ward boundary, and demonstrates the positive reasons that a review should be undertaken with the rural residents who are likely to be affected by the outcome.