APPENDIX 2

Community Governance Review – Responses

Question asked – Northampton Borough Council has recommended that: Pineham Village should be moved from Upton Parish to Hunsbury Meadows Parish.

1. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘No’, I am against the proposal as I believe it will have a negative effect on both Pineham and Upton precept. Thus, a negative effect on the resulting council tax. This is the first letter I have received on this sensitive issue, I would respectively question the validity of the report findings if others in the two communities have a similar experience.


4. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, why did you not tell us the number of residents who voted not to move Pineham Village into Hunsbury Meadows Parish, please?? We had to ‘do the maths’ ourselves - to be able to work out what the overall majority decision was!! Finally, why did you not include a 'key' on the map overleaf to indicate what the coloured lines mean?


8. Hunsbury Meadows Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, we think it will be an asset to our Parish.


11. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘No’, the response rates for consultation 1 are too low to be representative or significant. There has been no explanation/ justification for why the change should be made; this makes it impossible to give an informed opinion. Please devote more resources to ensuring the council is in surplus instead of changing arbitrary boundaries.


14. Hunsbury Meadows Parish Resident – Response ‘No’, the properties in Pineham look to have more in common with Upton than Hunsbury Meadows. I would rather these 'Buy to Let' areas are kept separate from the more established Hunsbury Meadows areas where residents are more likely to own the homes they live in.

15. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘No’, Pineham should be on its own! It's big enough!


21. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘Don't Know’, this communication is as clear as mud - so my answer is don’t know. If the council is going into 'special measures' this decision should be delayed until the Borough has a proper Council who can make more sense. You put council tax up by 5%, I don’t want it to rise again in the 2018-2019 period.

22. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘Don’t Know’, I am new to Northampton so as yet I know nothing about it so am unable to comment.


26. Hunsbury Meadows Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, it is a no brainer. Pineham Village is currently ignored and 'marooned' by Upton.

27. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, we currently receive no interest or input from Upton Parish. We are just a convenient source. Hunsbury Meadows Parish appear a lot more productive, enthusiastic and operate with the interest of the residents at heart.
39. Hunsbury Meadows Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, I think it is a good idea to have Hunsbury Meadows Parish.
42. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, no comment.
44. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, no comment.
47. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, no comment.

52. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, no more housing in Upton!


57. Hunsbury Meadows Parish Resident – Response ‘No’, surely with the new intake of residents now coming under the Hunsbury Meadows Parish, you would expect council tax to be reduced to reflect the increased income coming in. The only persons to benefit from all this is the Hunsbury Meadows Parish councillors getting more income. Public bins never get emptied as often as they should do this is an example of more tax, less benefits to local residents.


60. Hunsbury Meadows Parish Resident – Response ‘No’, no comment.

61. Hunsbury Meadows Parish Resident – Response ‘No’, we should not merge if it means an increase to the council tax to Hunsbury Meadows residents.

62. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘No’, but I must say I really don’t know.


64. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, no comment.


69. Hunsbury Meadows Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, I believe that your note about precept payments is a little misleading and could guide affected parishioners along the wrong path. Residents of the new Pineham Village estates already pay a precept to Upton Parish Council, a payment for which,
so far as can be determined, they currently get absolutely nothing in return. Upton Parish Council spends nothing in Pineham Village. Your note implies that by joining Hunsbury Meadows, residents of Pineham Village may face an additional charge, where as in fact they will probably benefit from a reduction in their precept, always assuming that the annual precept of Hunsbury Meadows Parish is lower than that of Upton’s. The current situation in Pineham Village is farcical, because Pineham Village is physically detached from the rest of Upton by the river and Pineham Village residents have to travel through part of Hunsbury Meadows to get to the rest of Upton.


71. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, following it would be easier if somewhere in the paperwork was a mention made that SNUP2 is Pineham Village. I find this very confusing.


73. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, no comment.


76. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, I think this is bound to be sooner or later, so yes on my answer here. We have to try to keep up with changes, as we all know, (like it or not). Thank you for the information on your letter.


83. Hunsbury Meadows Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, this makes so much sense – thank you.

84. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, in all honesty I don’t really understand/know about the implications for saying yes/no as I have moved back into the area after years of being away but have answered yes as
supporting the majority of residents who voted for - and feel if asked to make a decision then I should respond rather than ignore the request.


88. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘Don't Know’, after giving all your correspondence due consideration I am still at a loss to what this is all about. The attached map shows Upton Ward but where is Pineham Village and Hunsbury Meadows Parish on the map? The SNUP1 to SNUP4 means absolutely nothing to me. In all correspondence (at a cost to the tax payers) has there been a clear simple English explanation for change. Is this just parish councillors politicking to gain more power or is it in the true interests of the residence of the parishes? The lack of real clarity leads me to the conclusion this is all a fudge to suit some minor politicians standing. I would suggest that many of the votes received were from people who just ticked a book not really understanding why. Where can I meet in person and confront those making these proposals. Who recognised the need for the petition? What was the reason? Was it a parish councillor, councillor or MP? Were the electors of Pineham Developments individually petitioned or just their representatives? What are the benefits for such a re-organisation for Pineham, Hunsbury Meadows and Upton councils?

89. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘No’, as this change have a financial impact on my household I cannot agree to this until implications are fully understood.


91. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘No’, new build areas will be facing similar issues so are better to be grouped together, for voting and council tax.


94. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘Don’t Know’, why are you doing this and why are you wasting money sending out surveys? There is no information on the pros and cons of this decision which is probably why you got a very low response rate. If you can't outline the consequences of this change then how am I supposed to make an informed decision!!
95. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘Don’t Know’, don’t know to all the above questions.

96. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘Don’t Know’, the lack of information provided makes it impossible to make a reasoned judgement. The same applied to your previous correspondence, as I noted at the time.


99. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, having lived in or near both it makes sense to join your closer neighbours.


107. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, presumably SNUP1 is Hunsbury Meadows. The map does not show this (unlike the other wards).


109. Hunsbury Meadows Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, I agree with the recommendation above with the fact I do not have to pay more council tax, because of this charge.


116. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, what another waste of money!! Could have been put to far better use. Just ask people of Pineham NOT the whole world.


120. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, no comment.


123. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘No’, I do not see what benefit moving Pineham has to anyone other than potentially reducing council tax for Pineham/West Hunsbury residents if this goes ahead then potentially Upton residents who already have been hit with land trust fees as well as property and courtyard fees will also be hit with increased council tax fees why is it fair to prioritise one estate over any others?

124. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘No’, you have stated what you want to do but not what you want to achieve. Given that there is therefore nothing to achieve I can only see a waste of money. Save money and scrap this goalless project. Also, what is a ‘Pineham Village’? No information on what Pineham Village is can be found online.

125. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘No’, I do not want to pay higher council tax if these homes are moved – does not make logical sense.


127. Hunsbury Meadows Parish Resident – Response ‘No’, do not agree with any increase in council tax at all, as a result of this suggested move.

128. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘No’, I’m unconvinced the people of Upton Parish as a whole are best served by having the size and strength of their voices diluted whilst the land within is being so rapidly developed by powerful developers. Situations such as Greenbelt at Marina Park demonstrate the failure of NBC to hold developers to account weakening Parish councils does
nothing to assist in holding you to account on such matters.


131. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, we need to look at why the council tax is so high for Pineham. It’s an absolute OUTRAGE!!


133. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, I do agree it should be moved.


143. Hunsbury Meadows Parish Resident – Response ‘Don’t Know’, would agree if there is no extra cost on the rates as at the moment it is greater than 2.5% inflation. Do not want parish council to increase their part in case there is a vote each time they want to increase.


151. Hunsbury Meadows Parish Resident – Response ‘Don’t Know’, I am happy to move Pineham Village to Hunsbury Meadows but I am not happy that it could have implications on the precept we pay.


153. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘No’, if things are to change I’d expect a reduction in my council tax, which I feel is high for a 1 bed apartment.

154. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘No’, you have provided no information about what this change really means for anyone therefore how am I meant to make an informed decision? People understand mainstream politics little enough, and personally I know nothing about parish politics! So I’ll vote to maintain the status quo.


166. Hunsbury Meadows Parish Resident – Response ‘No’, I have responded NO to all the questions because it is very difficult to make a judgement without knowing if this change will increase our council tax. It is all clear from the consultation results that Upton Parish do not want to be part of Hunsbury

169. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, being a stranger to this area I have followed my instinct and have taken note of the council recommendations.


179. Hunsbury Meadows Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, as Hunsbury Meadows will become larger when will we get other services like a better bus service and local shop, there is absolutely nothing here for the elderly, young families or teenagers, public transport is essential and one local store.

181. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘No’, we should be staying in Upton Parish District as we are connected to the Upton Country Park. The upkeep and maintenance of this area and the surrounding areas are of far more importance to us than Hunsbury Meadows. We are not actually connected to them so why would we care as much about matters affecting that area?


187. Hunsbury Meadows Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, my main concern which would reverse my agreement for Pineham Village to be moved to Hunsbury Meadows would be if there was an increase to my current council tax bill. For 2018-2019, my council tax increased by £90 for the year which is by far the largest increase on the last 7 years. Will the parish precept changes be calculated prior to any agreed move so that residents will be aware of any increase/decrease before a final decision is made?


192. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, as long as the Upton rates do not have to largely increase due to the lack of income from Pineham.


194. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, the river seems as a good idea as the boundary. You didn’t say what the people of Pineham wanted – this should be considered – I would have liked to know what they thought too.

195. Hunsbury Meadows Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, I think it is a smaller move and will improve both Hunsbury Meadows and Pineham Village.


202. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘No’, the polling district SNUP2 should not be moved from Upton Parish.

203. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘No’, I would personally be worried about taxes which is likely to increase.


210. Hunsbury Meadows Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, increased community feel as Pineham is closer to Hunsbury Meadows, up to the River Nene on the north side.

211. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘No’, no comment.


221. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘No’, should stay as it is.

223. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘Don’t Know’, take whatever route is most efficient.


226. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘No’, we can’t support a change when we don’t have a full picture of its impact.

227. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘Yes’, Upton Parish polling district and polling station to stay the same. Upton Parish not to increase council tax to compensate for this move.


230. Upton Parish Resident – Response ‘No’, 132 responses, 18 don’t know in total only 37 responses came from Hunsbury Meadows residents. The largest number of respondents came from the Upton Parish residents (number omitted on accompanying letter) who thought it was not a good idea. Such as small minority of the vote is causing this change. I feel that we have not been provided with any information regarding the views of Upton Parish Council (before our responses were asked for). Hunsbury Meadows Parish Council have requested this move – which must clearly be of benefit to them. Why have we not been privy to the position of Upton Parish Council with regards to their wishes and whether it is detrimental to them?


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