

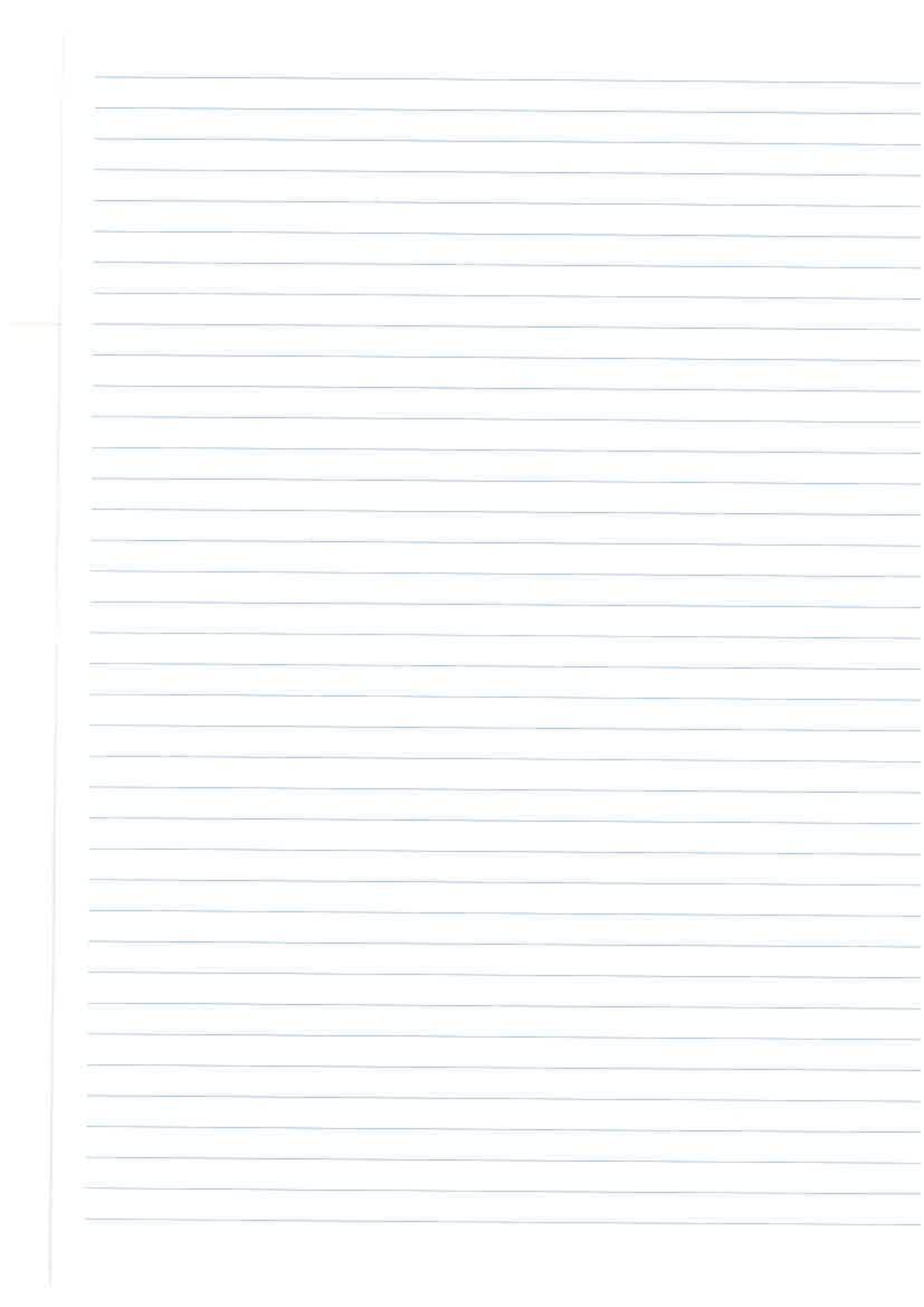
35 Fowler
Stantonbury
Milton Keynes
MK14 6AP
23/2/25

Response to the Ward Boundary Review consultation:

I have lived here for forty years and am Stantonbury Parish Council's longest serving Councillor, with over twenty years' service. I fully endorse my Parish Council's response to the Review. This is my personal response, as a resident and as a Councillor for Stantonbury + Linford Wood.

Since I came to live here, I have been involved, and remain involved, in a variety of community roles. I have been Secretary of the Residents' Association, governed the local First School and served on the Leadership Team at the Church. I am deeply committed to my community.

I have also been involved in a number of previous Boundary Reviews. In the pre-internet days when people sat round a table and talked to each other, John Moffoot, then Head of Democratic Services, taught us that it was best practice for boundaries to be permanent + recognisable features such as rivers, canals + railways - in our area the West Coast railway and the Grand Union Canal. The present proposals totally ignore these features.

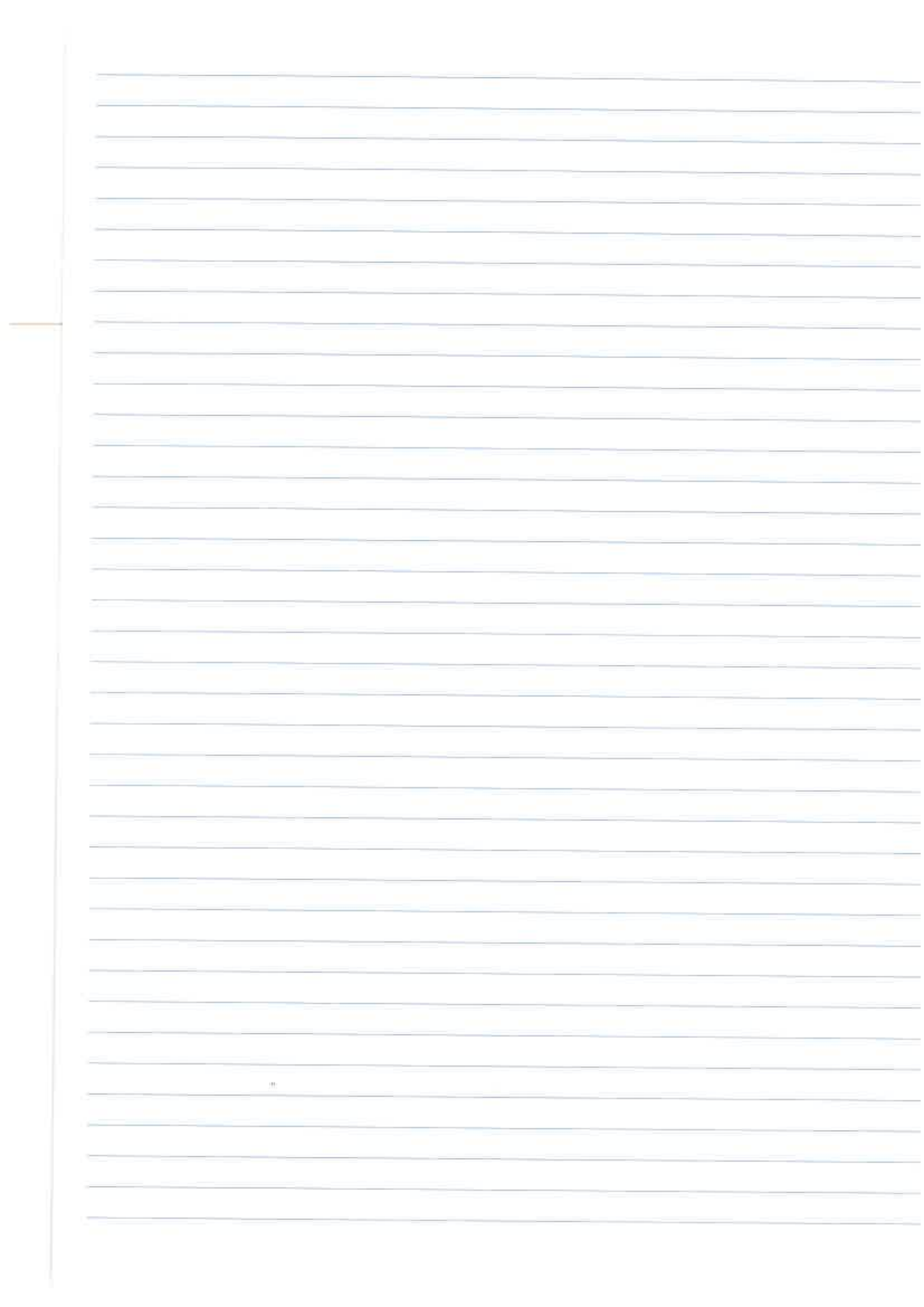


The proposed new Ward contains five areas. Hanslope and Haversham are villages; New Bradwell a Victorian extension of Wolverton; Bradville a fifty year old socially mixed area with housing built during the 70s brick shortage and Oakridge Park a modern development. These areas have nothing in common historically, geographically or socially. New Bradwell was a part of Stantonbury Parish when I first became a Councillor but left us - rightly! - to become an independent Community Council.

Stantonbury belongs historically with Oakridge Park. After four centuries being called Stantonbury Park, this was changed to Oakridge Park by a decision delegated to a single Wolverton Ward Councillor. Oakridge Park was the developer's name. No oaks. No ridges. The same developer at the same time built a similar estate in Leicestershire which they called Cedar View. The nearest cedar is fifty miles away in the National Forest. Stantonbury Park was internationally famous in the 15th Century for the quality of the wool produced there. The road names there reflect this, in common with many of the names in my part of Stantonbury.

Stantonbury and Bradville have a common affinity. They share schools, shops, community centres and a pub. Also a church and leisure centre. They were deliberately designed that way. The proposals ignore that.

Stantonbury does not belong with



Great Linford. As a former Church Officer of St. Andrew's Church I worked in the Great Linford community for twelve years. Stantonbury and Great Linford are very different.

The proposed changes mean that Stantonbury Parish Councillors will be dealing with nine different Ward Councillors - difficult for all concerned! And people living on Bancroft/Blue Bridge will be dealing with their third set of Ward Councillors as their Ward changes yet again.

The only reason I can think of for these ill thought out changes is to balance the numbers and my fear is that these proposals will affect the Parish Boundary Review. I would not be surprised to see Stantonbury Parish removed from the map, its considerable resources swallowed up and my work of the last quarter century consigned to the dustbin of history.

I strongly object to these proposals.

(Cllr) Sandra Kennedy

