

I am concerned that a CGR at this point does not fairly serve either Parish of Standish or Great Oldbury. I fear the proposed decision on boundary changes to cede open land from Standish to Great Oldbury will be dominated by comments and views from the Parish with the larger population, all for an area that has no residents currently that can express their wishes.

Assuming this land designated as a strategic allocation in the draft local plan is developed as planned, then it may be a logical extension of Great Oldbury, or it may be the urban edge of a rural Standish Parish – a factor that has long been in consideration and planning for Standish Parish Council. If developed, there will be perhaps 1,400+ residents – they are the most important people who should be consulted on boundary changes.

I myself championed the call for a CGR for the new village of Hunts Grove. If that consultation was held before the residents moved in, then there would have been a completely different outcome for the community. It is the voice of the future residents that matter most – green fields cannot express an opinion! In the case of Hunts Grove, engagement in the CGR by the residents it affected, led to a very successful result driven by their wishes.

In summary, my view is that the hard work and planning put in place by Standish Parish Council should be respected and implemented until such time as the residents that live on the land in question express a view otherwise.