

## Neil Curtis

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**From:** Neil Curtis [hubbyspice@sky.com]  
**Sent:** 22 December 2008 14:49  
**To:** 'Sheilagh.jeffery@kpca.nhs.uk'  
**Subject:** Rurality of Area

Dear Mrs Jeffery,

Thank you for your letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008 and the accompanying map.

Firstly the map you have enclosed encompasses some land to the east of the Medway River Centre Line and therefore does not fall within the Parishes of Cuxton or Halling. I un therefore unable to comment on the rurality of this land other than to comment that is less populated than Cuxton or Halling and is I assume consequently of an even more rural nature.

The Parishes of Cuxton and Halling comprise of two small villages with numerous very small groups of outlying houses scattered throughout each parish.

There only three bus services for the two villages. The routes(listed below) cover the two villages and the A228. There is no bus service to the outlying areas of the Parishes:

<b>151</b>	(Chatham Maritime, Chatham Historic Dockyard, Universities at Medway evenings/Sundays) – Chatham - Chatham Rail Station – Rochester – Strood - Cuxton - Halling -(Upper Halling) Snodland – West Malling and Kings Hill	Hourly (Two hourly Upper Halling) (two hourly Saturdays)	Hourly to Halling	Two hourly to West Malling
<b>703</b>	Maidstone - Larkfield – Snodland - Halling - Cuxton – Bluewater	Two journeys weekdays; three journeys Saturdays		
<b>707</b>	Maidstone- Larkfield- Snodland- Cuxton- Lakeside- Romford	First Saturday of each month (Pick up in Cuxton opp White Horse PH at 0953; drop off in Cuxton on return at 1700)		

Medway Council 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2008

<http://www.medway.gov.uk/index/environment/publictransport/buses/11300.html>

The only other form of public transport is the railway line that follows the west bank of the River Medway. This offers no service to the outlying areas of either Parish and offers no service to those who do not live along the West bank of the River Medway.

Trains operate every 30 minutes 9am – 5pm Monday to Saturday and hourly on Sundays. Trains due run outside the 9am – 5pm but not as frequently.

(London & South-eastern Railway Ltd 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2008[http://southeastern.go-cms.co.uk/content/doc/pdf/timetables/timetable\\_110.pdf](http://southeastern.go-cms.co.uk/content/doc/pdf/timetables/timetable_110.pdf))

Cuxton and Halling cover a geographical area of 15,353,570 m<sup>2</sup>

(Office of National Statistics 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2008

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadTableView.do?a=3&b=6096988&c=ME2+1DR&d=14&e=8&q=406275&i=1001x1003x1004&m=0&r=0&s=1229952351639&enc=1&dsFamilyId=1201>)

Of that only 162,020 m<sup>2</sup> or 1.06% is occupied by Domestic Buildings.

(Office of National Statistics 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2008

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadTableView.do?a=3&b=6096988&c=ME2+1DR&d=14&e=8&q=406275&i=1001x1003x1004&m=0&r=0&s=1229952910726&enc=1&dsFamilyId=1201>)

Cuxton & Halling have a population of 5,268. This gives a population density of only 343.11 people/Km<sup>2</sup>

(Office of National Statistics 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2008

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadTableView.do?a=3&b=6096988&c=ME2+1DR&d=14&e=13&g=406275&i=1001x1003x1004&m=0&r=0&s=1229952822977&enc=1&dsFamilyId=75>)

There are 2,130 households in Cuxton & Halling of those 281 or 13.19% of households have no access to a car or van. They would thus dependent upon public transport to travel outside the area to collect prescriptions were the GP's prescription service be withdrawn.

(Office of National Statistics 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2008

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadTableView.do?a=3&b=6096988&c=ME2+1DR&d=14&e=1&q=406275&i=1001x1003x1004&m=0&r=0&s=1229956737485&enc=1&dsFamilyId=51> )

Given the lack of public transport, the high proportion of population without private transport and the low population density, as evidenced above, it cannot be denied that Cuxton and Halling must be classified as rural areas. To do otherwise would remove the essential dispensing service provided by local GP's. As there are no local dispensing Chemists the withdrawal of the GP's dispensing service will leave many patients with an arduous journey to collect prescriptions, via an inadequate public transport system, at a time when they may well be least mentally or physically able to cope with the journey.

Regards,

*Neil Curtis*

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