

# Referendum result

YOUR reporting of the result of the Winchelsea Referendum was completely incorrect and I would ask you publish this correction.

The Winchelsea Action Group has, from the outset, sought to obtain a democratic outcome from a referendum of the registered electors on the electoral roll of the ward of Winchelsea.

The question put at the referendum was 'Do you want your ward to become a separate parish?'. The result in Winchelsea was 126 for, and 69 against, becoming a separate parish.

Therefore there was a majority for the separation of Winchelsea, to become a separate parish, from Icklesham Parish.

At no time did we seek a similar referendum for the registered electors of the other three wards as to do so would have been an intrusion into their own democratic elective process.

In the same way we are only allowed to elect our parish councillors while we have no right to influence the election of the parish councillors of the other wards.

The fact all three wards were subjected to a referendum was purely at the behest of Icklesham Parish Council with the support of Rother District Council.

The outcome should have been reported correctly as Rye Harbour, Winchelsea Beach and Icklesham wards of Icklesham Parish wish to continue under the government of Icklesham Parish Council while the Winchelsea ward has voted by a considerable majority for a separate parish and council of Winchelsea.

This is a democratic elective result and any attempt to overturn it or to misrepresent that result to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government would be illegal.

The consultation exercise that Rother District Council is carrying out cannot influence that result.

It may be of interest to readers that a similar fight for their own parish is being conducted by the electorate of Lydd-on-Sea and Greatstone to be free of the control of Lydd Town Council.

When representing their case to Lydd Town Council Cllr Rory Love echoed our own argument when he said "It is about identity, a sense of place, local voice and local choice."

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