

OBSERVER MAILBAG

Sneaky referendum?

I HAVE just discovered by chance that there will be a referendum on the issue of the Icklesham Parish Council.

Are all the good citizens of the four wards that comprise the Parish of Icklesham aware that Mr. Richard Comotto called a Parish Meeting in Winchelsea?

As a result of this meeting, I have learnt that he has "demanded" that Rother District Council conduct a Parish Poll, a referendum throughout the whole parish.

The question he wishes us all to answer is:

Does your ward wish to become a separate parish?

Who does Mr. Comotto think he is?

He initially wished to withdraw Winchelsea from the Parish of Icklesham.

Now he has moved the goalposts and wants ALL the wards to withdraw from the Parish of Icklesham.

To this end he demands a referendum but does not tell three of the four wards that it is taking place.

How can this be fair?

No doubt Mr. Comotto and the Winchelsea Action Group hope that we, the citizens of the other three wards of the Parish of Icklesham will not be aware of this unpublished referendum and will consequently not go out to vote.

I have just discovered that this referendum is in addition to the survey conducted by mail by Rother District Council which is not due until August 25.

I was astounded to learn that the cost of the referendum demanded by Mr. Comotto will have to be paid by Icklesham Parish Council and is likely to be around £2,000.

On enquiring, Rother District's Returning Officer informs me that all qualified electors in the polling districts of the Parish of Icklesham are entitled to vote not just the residents of Winchelsea.

I have received no official notification of this referendum and wonder how many others are unaware that it takes place on Thursday, July 27 and only from 4pm to 9pm.

I also understand that only four ballot boxes will be available to record the votes, at Icklesham Memorial Hall, Rye Harbour Village Hall, Winchelsea New Hall and Winchelsea Beach Community Hall.

Voting is limited to five hours. Yet nobody has told the electorate.

How can we exercise our democratic right to vote in this referendum demanded by Richard Comotto, if we do not know it is going to take place?

I believe there is a real danger that with the majority of residents of three of the four wards ignorant of the date, time and indeed the very existence of the referendum, Mr. Comotto's motion will be carried and the Winchelsea Action Group will win. Is this democracy?

ANN RACHLIN M.B.E.
Windmill Lane,
Icklesham

So, putting up For Sale notices, they are fleeing their homes, leaving them vulnerable to Pharaoh Prescott who could commandeer them to place asylum seekers therein.

Some say the children of Commotion Kingdom face more than 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness because of the manner by which the seat of power is being seized.

Many others in neighbouring areas, where "cleaning ladies live", are likewise disturbed by the commotion in the Town of Milk and Honey for they too are sore afraid. 'Tis not the Red Sea which is divided, but now the Winchel Sea.

Whom the Parish Council has joined together let no man put asunder.

IAIN KERR
Address supplied

Winchelsea under fire

I'M SORRY that Winchelsea was slated in last week's letters.

I've lived there for a year and a half and find it a very friendly and pleasant place to live.

I. Sambrook
Friars Rd, Winchelsea

Rye Observer

21/7/06

Winchel Sea divided

AND it came to pass, that a mighty wind of dissent has blown over the Town of Milk and Honey and the people are sore afraid. For one has risen amongst them and has caused a great commotion which has turned neighbour against neighbour.

It is said, that having tasted from the Tree of Power, this one seeks to rule absolute within Commotion Kingdom. This thought has disturbed many who cry "Let our people go".