

OBSERVER MAILBAG

What majority?

I WAS interested to read the statement from Richard Comotto in last week's Rye Observer, that the proposal for Winchelsea to secede from the Parish of Icklesham has the support of 'the majority of electors in Winchelsea'.

I have Mr Comotto's own figures in front of me: Winchelsea has 600 residents with 410 voters. Also before me are the voting details from a public meeting, held by the Action Group, after 286 households had been notified.

68 households were represented. 44 voted for the proposal, four were against while the remaining 20 wanted it put to a referendum.

It is on record that some residents who had wished to attend were, for reasons unknown, barred from the meeting!

44 yes votes from 286 is only 15 per cent, but Mr Comotto states that there are 410 eligible voters. Therefore, 44 in favour of the proposal from an eligible 410, is merely 10.6 per cent - hardly a majority. With Westminster politics currently riddled with unbelievable statistics and questionable tactics, it is a pity to see signs of similar symptoms creeping into East Sussex - so alien to the character of the very beautiful, historical, ancient town of Winchelsea.

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Who will pay?

I UNDERSTAND that Mr Comotto and his Action Group, who wish to break away from the Parish of Icklesham, have already presented their proposal to Rother Council.

As Rother will have to canvas by mail every household in all four Wards for a democratic response, is Mr Comotto and his group, who instigated all of this, prepared to pick up the tab for the cost of this mailing which, I understand, will be in excess of £4,000?

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