

OBSERVER MAILBAG

Democratic decision

MR KERR was misinformed when he wrote his letter last week. The 68 households to which he referred were those who wrote to Rother District Council after a public meeting in Winchelsea in November 2004.

The review being conducted by the district council is in response to those letters and the prima facie case made for the proposal.

In my letter published in the Observer on May 26, I stated that (quote) 'a petition in support of the proposal has already been signed by the majority of electors in Winchelsea'.

Mr Kerr has confused this petition, which has been collected this year, with the letters written to the district council last year.

The petition has more than the 205 signatures, which clearly constitutes a majority of registered electors in Winchelsea.

As regards the meeting in November 2004, Mr Kerr is wrong. No resident of Winchelsea was barred. The meeting was open to all residents who were either registered as electors or eligible to register in Winchelsea.

A couple from Icklesham (both registered as electors in Icklesham and therefore ineligible to vote in Winchelsea) turned up and were asked to leave, which they did. A registered elector from Winchelsea Beach also turned up, refused to leave and was allowed to stay.

Let me take this opportunity to repeat that the proposal is that each ward of Icklesham Parish, not just Winchelsea, should democratically decide its own future and whether it wishes to become an independent parish. I regret Mr Kerr's references to 'alien' characteristics.

RICHARD COMOTTO
High Street, Winchelsea

Winchelsea petition?

IN RESPONSE to Councillor Richard Comotto's letter of Friday, May 26, I would agree that the efforts of the town residents over the last four years to raise £100,000 towards Winchelsea Little Shop, the Post Office and Winchelsea Community Office is very commendable. As a matter of interest, how much of this large sum is represented by one-off grants?

Councillor Comotto also stated in his lengthy letter that a petition supporting Winchelsea's withdrawal from Icklesham Parish Council has already been signed by the majority of the electors in Winchelsea, but I would like it to be known that well over half the town have no knowledge of this petition.

D CAMERON-CLARKE
Winchelsea