

# OBSERVER MAILBAG

## Winchelsea key ward?

IT WAS amusing to read an advertisement placed in the Rye Observer by Icklesham Parish Council for the post of parish clerk in which Icklesham Parish Council described itself as 'serving the peoples of Icklesham, Winchelsea Beach and Rye Harbour'.

I hope that this is a portent of things to come. However, I rather think it is a description of things past.

In any event, it is at odds with the claim made in an article in the same issue that Winchelsea is a 'key ward'. It would seem that Winchelsea is not so key that the parish council can always remember its existence!

I was also amused to see the argument in the same article that 'if the parish were diluted it would weaken its position when it came to appealing for grants to improve facilities'. How would they know? Icklesham Parish Council rarely applies for grants.

In the last three financial years, according to their accounts, the council has received just under £3,700 in grants.

Of this, £2,000 was secured by Winchelsea councillors or donated by Winchelsea residents and organisations.

In comparison, over a similar period, Winchelsea residents have secured over £100,000 in external grants without the support of Icklesham Parish Council!

If Icklesham Parish Council tried harder to secure external grants, rather than just bumping up the precept (which has increased by 270% since the last election), they would discover that grants are not awarded because of the size of the body seeking a grant, but because of the strength of the case made for the project.

**CHRIS MEARS**  
Hiham Road, Winchelsea