

attendance plus two clerks and the chairman of Icklesham Parish Council.

Of the public I was in a majority of one, no sign of the silent majority or the action group.

I was allowed to put my argument against the conversion of garages and the chairman of the planning committee stated that it was now the agreed policy that the committee that they would not support any proposal to convert garages in Winchelsea.

The chairman of Icklesham Parish Council then instructed the planning chairman that he could not do that, in her opinion modern cars would not deteriorate standing out in all weathers, and some conversions improved on up and over garage doors, and was ably supported by the councillor for Rye Harbour, neither of whom obviously gave any consideration to the environmental effect of one more car parked on the road in Winchelsea.

The upshot of this intervention was that the conversion application was agreed, the only one against being the councillor for Winchelsea ward.

Subsequent to the meeting I read some of the published material advocating the status quo of the Parish Council.

Silent majority, May 14 "But as members of Icklesham Parish Council we do have (hopefully) the support of the other wards".

Letters May 19 "The four wards have worked wonderfully well together, if a matter arose in one ward alone it was raised by a councillor from that ward then discussed by all wards and as a result a more balanced conclusion was invariably reached".

So much for the hopes of the silent majority or the previous harmonious balanced conclusions of former councillors when a matter that is patiently the concern of Winchelsea is outvoted by the other wards even in contraction of previous intentions.

Winchelsea will obviously always be the underdog of the present parish until we have the opportunity to manage our own affairs.

Parish 'underdog'

AS the discourse and voting on the above subject is now behind us I attended the Icklesham Parish Council planning meeting of August 21 as my particular interest was a proposal to convert a garage into domestic premises.

In the recent past we have had four garages in Winchelsea, three in Castle Street converted resulting in four cars now parked in the street and a hard standing created next to the town well, an ancient monument.

There were, I believe, the full planning committee in

1/9/06

A J JASPER
The Armoury, Winchelsea

**Send your letters to The Editor,
Woods House, Telford Road, St
Leonards TN38 9LZ or email
rye.battle@trbeckett.co.uk**