

# Rother officers discuss results of Winchelsea 'consultation'

THE future of Winchelsea is currently being discussed by officers at Rother District Council.

Some want the town to break away from Icklesham Parish Council and form its own separate parish council which it says will better address the needs of Winchelsea.

Rother launched a public consultation process which came to a close at the end of August and are now looking at the findings of this.

The issue will go before cabinet, at Bexhill, on Novem-

ber 16, with Rother's report published a week earlier.

The report will determine whether Rother is prepared to support Winchelsea's bid to have its own parish council.

Winchelsea, which is often cited as England's smallest town, is currently one of four wards making up Icklesham Parish Council - the others being Rye Harbour, Winchelsea Beach and Icklesham itself.

Voters from the parish took part in an election, earlier this year, which saw the majority

against Winchelsea breaking away, though in Winchelsea itself voters came out in favour of independence and supporters claimed this was a clear indication of what townsfolk wanted.

Opponents say Winchelsea is a key ward and that if the parish were to be diluted it would weaken its position when it came to appealing for grants to improve facilities.

Rother sent out a detailed questionnaire to all homes and organisations in the parish seeking views on the matter.