

Firebrand
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4 June 2006

The Editor
Rye and Battle Observer
Woods House
Telford Road
St Leonards-on-Sea
TN38 9LZ

Sir,

Proposal for a separate Parish of Winchelsea

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 that was published in the Observer on 26th May, 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.

Yours faithfully

Richard Comotto