

Ian Bigwood

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 27 May 2012 18:57
To: Electoral Registration
Subject: CGR Penshurst

Categories: Red Category

Dear Sir,

RE: Your letter reference IPB/BR5

Thank you for your letter regarding Penshurst and Fordcombe Parish Council.

Please note that to date I have not been involved in the issue of affordable housing in Penshurst nor have I taken any particular side in the issue. Also prior to receiving your letter I had not realised that this issue had caused friction between Fordcombe and Penshurst.

I would like to point out that I did attend the parish council meetings regarding the Poly Tunnels at Salmans farm Penshurst and I personally noted that there was an issue between Fordcombe and Penshurst on this issue and so it is not true to say that there is a problem solely due to the affordable housing issue.

From my perspective the single most important aspect of local government is that it is able to carry out the wishes of the local electorate otherwise there is little point in having it. With this in mind I have the following comments on the 3 proposals:

- Proposal (a) will guarantee that issues in Penshurst (and Fordcombe) are dealt with locally
- Proposal (b) if not permissible will need to be discarded
- Proposal (c) does not solve the issue at all because the Fordcombe will still be voting on Penshurst specific issues and vice versa and this will not solve anything. I cannot see how the council concludes that this option has merit

So I would select option (a) and reject the council's preference for option (c)

Thank you for bringing this issue to light and thank you requesting our feedback on it

Best Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

4th July 2012

I Bigwood
Sevenoaks District Council
Council Offices
Argyle Road
Sevenoaks
Kent
TN13 1HG

Received 09 JUL 2012

Dear Mr Bigwood

Re: Community Governance Review

I have lived in Penshurst for nearly 20 years and in all that time I have never understood why Fordcombe and Penshurst are in the same parish. Both villages have their own Churches, Schools, Village Halls, Public Houses and Sports Clubs etc. so are not sharing facilities and therefore have different priorities. These priorities can conflict, as is the case with affordable housing. I have attended Parish Council meetings and seen this conflict of interest myself.

They are 2.6 miles apart on the B2176 divided naturally by the river Medway's flood plain, where obviously there are no dwellings. It would not be feasible in this day and age to walk from one to the other as there are no footpaths and it would take over an hour. Spring Hill being particularly dangerous.

Accordingly it is my view and that of my family that it would make very good sense to ~~create~~ create separate parishes.

