

**PARISH COUNCIL OF
SUNDRIDGE WITH
IDE HILL**

**BARBARA CORNELL
Clerk to the Council**

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Mr Ian Bigwood
Electoral Services Manager
Sevenoaks District Council.

BY EMAIL to: elreg@sevenoaks.gov.uk

23rd February 2012

Dear Mr Bigwood

Local Governance Review

The Parish Council has instructed me to give you the following response to the Local Governance Review which began on 30th November 2011.

The Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council welcomes the review of the powers, responsibilities and organisation of Parish and Town Councils.

There have been enormous social, economic, political and attitudinal changes that impinge upon the way these Councils work and on community and Government demands of them.

Sundridge with Ide Hill PC believes that merely seeking unguided individual responses from Councils is an inappropriate mechanism for what are serious, relevant and difficult judgments about the functioning of government and delivery of services at the local level..

Sundridge with Ide Hill PC looks to Sevenoaks District Council to facilitate proper discussion and consideration of ways in which the lowest tier of elected government can operate most effectively in difficult financial situations and truly represent local communities given changed circumstances and expectations. This process should examine current needs, clarify different roles and look at alternative models that might be adopted. Inevitably there would be a need to discuss such contentious issues as boundary changes, merging councils, collaborative arrangements and ventures, and the role of SDC itself. As far as possible there should be a consistent approach across the SDC area.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Cornell

Mrs B Cornell
Clerk to the Parish