

Local residents' submissions to the Shepway District Council electoral review

This PDF document contains 18 submissions from local residents.

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adriancirket-Shepway-CS
-Resident-2012-11-14



Alan&Pat-Davis-Shep...



alantate-Shepway-C...



AlexanderSumner-She...



Anonymous-Shepway-...



Anonymous-Shepway-...



Anonymous-Shepway-...



CJ-Stephens-Shepwa...



DKersey-Shepway-C...



JoynesRA-Shepway-...



LonkhurstE-Shepway-...



L-Whybrow-Shepway-...



M-Kewer-Shepway-C...



paulHenderson-Shepw...



RichardArnold-Shepw...



RSaunders-Shepway-...



TerryParker-Shepwa...



TGibbs-Shepway-CS-R...

adrian cirket

Member of the public

14/11/2012 19:50

"I believe 30 is too few Councillors and if a reduction is deemed then I suggest 36-38 would be more appropriate. One area I would address is Lydd where I would create a Town Ward and a Coast ward. New Romney could be reduced to two Town and one Coast by redrawing the boundary.

Dymchurch should include Burmarsh and St Marys Bay should go into the Romney Marsh Rural ward.

Central should lose the area which was Harvey but gain parts if not all of Foord.

Harbour and East Wards should be combined."

Hinds, Alex

From: Alan & Pat Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 December 2012 15:06
To: Reviews@
Cc: Rochelle Saunders
Subject: Public consultation - Shepway District Boundaries

Dear Sir

We write in connection with the consultation on the proposal to cut the number of district councillors for Shepway from 46 to 30 to which we are in total agreement.

We live in Polling District Lydd DC - Lydd DB and DC comprise the coastal strip and are some 6 miles from Lydd town (DA) and is contiguous with the New Romney coastal ward.

The present district councillors do not represent us in any way at all - their only interest is in Lydd town DA.

We feel that if we were represented by a specific district councillor to cover the Polling Districts of Lydd DB and DC together with the New Romney coastal ward, this would be far more satisfactory, and also have the desired effect of reducing the overall number of Shepway district councillors for our area.

We do hope you will take our views into consideration.

Yours sincerely

Alan and Pat Davis
[REDACTED]

alan tate

[REDACTED]

Member of the public

[REDACTED]

30/11/2012 10:58

I believe that all wards should be the same size so that all councillors would have the same amount of people to look after and issues relating to their wards.

Alexander Sumner

[REDACTED]

Member of the public

[REDACTED]

01/12/2012 21:03

I think that the present number could be halved. Most of them are only there for what they can get out of it, not for the benefit of the town or its residents. If any of them thought anything of the people who voted for them they wouldn't have pushed through these ridiculous parking charges which will kill off an already dying town.

[REDACTED]
Sent: 26 October 2012 21:40

To: Reviews@

Subject: Councillors in Shepway

To The Review Officer,

I am sending my email regarding the changes to the number of councillors in Shepway. I live in Folkestone and personally think that thirty councillors is still too many. They do nothing to improve our town, I could do a better job myself on the council even though I am a thirty year old housewife, I would listen to and know what the people want, its very simple how to improve our town but they do not listen, its sheer greed all the time with our council.

The shop rates should be reduced, the pay meter parking scrapped, local people want to improve the town to make it more appealing and we want visitors to the town, but the councillors are pushing them elsewhere and our town will suffer for their greed. This is why I think we do not need too many councillors as we are paying for too many wages and getting cutbacks on things that are important as well. I think the less councillors the better! Or find people that will do a better job as the local people are constantly unhappy with our useless councillors, these people have no clue how to improve the town for the better.

Thank you for reading my email.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Hinds, Alex

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 November 2012 13:41
To: Reviews@

Subject: RE Councillor cuts in Shepway

The current arrangement of councillors in Shepway are far too many. The ILGBCE are asking us, the people of shepway, whether 30 councillors should serve on the council in the future, 16 fewer than the current arrangement. The answer is NO. It should be even LESS than 30.

The mini Government, AKA Shepway District Council should have at least 10 councillors to represent the people of Shepway, and even that is still too many.

Perhaps if SDC has less councillors using the revenue from the people of Shepway as their own personal piggy bank perhaps the cost of living will be less.

Hinds, Alex

From: CHRISTOPHE STEPHENS [REDACTED]

Sent: 29 November 2012 13:27

To: Reviews@

Subject: Shepway District Council

Dear Sirs,

For the first time I have this morning seen an article about possibly reducing the number of Councillors in this area. May I say I do not think this topic has been advertised enough.

However, I think the proposal to reduce the number of Councillors in Shepway by 16 is a good thing, From my experience there are too many and a lot of them are not carrying out their duties adequately. By reducing the number, it will hopefully encourage those who are elected to do a better job for the local residents.

The role of Councillor is not widely known and this should be addressed, which might encourage more people to vote at elections. There is a widely held view that decisions are made long before any consultations take place, so why bother. Residents need to know that the views of local residents are taken into consideration and consultation periods are not something that have to be done.

Yours Sincerely,
C. J. Stephens.

Hinds, Alex

From: reviews@lgbce.org.uk
Sent: 03 December 2012 16:49
To: Reviews@
Subject: Custom Form Submission Received

 - Custom Form Submission Notification

Custom Form Submission Received

Review Editor,

A new custom form submission has been received. The details of the form submission are as follows:

Submission Information

Custom Form: Online submissions form (#183)
Form URL: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-consultations/online-submissions-form>
Submission ID: 1592
Time of Submission: Dec 3rd 2012 at 4:48pm

[Redacted]

Form Answers

Name: David Kersey
Address 1:
Address 2:
Address 3:
[Redacted]

Area your submission refers to: Shepway

Organisation you belong to: member of the public

Your feedback: I would like to see the current Lydd DB and DC Voting Districts combined with New Romney's coastal ward to form one ward for the reduced Shepway District Council representation. This coastal area has different needs and problems compared with those of its current administrators (Lydd Town and New Romney Town) and a separate voice for this section of the electorate is sorely needed.

File upload:

Hinds, Alex

From: reviews@lgbce.org.uk
Sent: 26 November 2012 09:44
To: Reviews@
Subject: Custom Form Submission Received

 - Custom Form Submission Notification

Custom Form Submission Received

Review Editor,

A new custom form submission has been received. The details of the form submission are as follows:

Submission Information

Custom Form: Online submissions form (#183)
Form URL: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-consultations/online-submissions-form>
Submission ID: 1575
Time of Submission: Nov 26th 2012 at 9:44am
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Form Answers

Name: Mr R A Joynes
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Area your submission refers to: Shepway
Organisation you belong to: member of the public

Your feedback: I agree with the proposal that the number of District Councillors should be reduced to 30 or less. Shepway D C operate a Cabinet System of Control using only 10 members therefore the number of Councillors needed to review their work should be twice the number of Cabinet members, ie, 20 making a total of 30. If the Cabinet number reduces so should the total number of Councillors used to review their work. More powers should be given to the Town and Parish Councils to scrutinise the work of the District Council as they and their residents are the ones who are affected by the decisions of the District Council.

File upload:

Hinds, Alex

From: reviews@lgbce.org.uk
Sent: 30 November 2012 11:27
To: Reviews@
Subject: Custom Form Submission Received

 - Custom Form Submission Notification

Custom Form Submission Received

Review Editor,

A new custom form submission has been received. The details of the form submission are as follows:

Submission Information

Custom Form: Online submissions form (#183)
Form URL: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-consultations/online-submissions-form>
Submission ID: 1585
Time of Submission: Nov 30th 2012 at 11:26am
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Form Answers

Name: Elizabeth Lonkhurst
Address 1: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Area your submission refers to: Shepway

Organisation you belong to: member of the public

Your feedback: I agree that the number of councillors should be reduced. Your recommendation is from 46 to either 38 or 30. I think 30 would be better than 38 but 23 would be better still. I take the point that councillors in rural areas might be overstretched and recommend that pruning takes place in urban areas. I do not believe that rural areas are fairly represented at present. In fact I do not approve of "cabinet" governance. This results in a small cadre (several of whom are old fogies who should have retired years ago) dictating to the entire district whereas those councillors who are not in the cabinet are ignored.

File upload:

Hinds, Alex

From: Morrison, William
Sent: 05 December 2012 10:47
To: Hinds, Alex
Subject: FW: Consultation re no of Councillors in Shepway

From: Hinds, Alex
Sent: 29 November 2012 11:41
To: Morrison, William
Subject: FW: Consultation re no of Councillors in Shepway

Alex Hinds
Review Assistant
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
76-86 Turnmill Street
London
EC1M 5LG
Tel: 020 7664 8534 | Fax: 020 7296 6227
Email: alex.hinds@lgbce.org.uk Web: www.lgbce.org.uk



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From: Lesley Whybrow [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 November 2012 09:06
To: Reviews@
Subject: Consultation re no of Councillors in Shepway

Hi

I've just tried to submit my comments through your consultation portal and lost the lot!

So here they are again as far as I can remember them:

As Shepway operates a cabinet system, it seems to me that the majority of councillors are excluded from much of the decision making process anyway so we probably could manage with fewer councillors. I would however prefer that the cabinet system was abolished.

It's hard for me to judge how much work is involved in being a district councillor or whether reducing the overall no of councillors would increase that workload but as a member of the public I would be quite happy with just one councillor for my ward.

The one issue that might be solved by reducing the no of Shepway councillors would be this problem whereby councillors sit on both Hythe and Shepway councils and are then unable to partipate in certain debates/votes at Hythe becuase of conflict of interest issues (eg where land owned by Shepway is under discussion). If there were fewer Shepway councillors then there might be more candiadates available to stand and they could stand for one or other council but not both. As things stand I feel that Hythe residents are losing out democratically.

Lesley Whybrow

Hinds, Alex

From: Morrison, William
Sent: 05 December 2012 10:47
To: Hinds, Alex
Subject: FW: The Review Officer (Shepway) - Local views sought on number of councillors for Shepway District Council

-----Original Message-----

From: Mike [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 November 2012 21:30
To: Reviews@
Subject: The Review Officer (Shepway) - Local views sought on number of councillors for Shepway District Council

Hello

I would like to support the proposal to reduce the numbers of Shepway District Councillors from 38 to 30.

I consider that 38 councillors are more like the "old rotten boroughs" where local elections are not fought particularly hard, during the last election in 2011 my house had no election literature at all, therefore the same councillors can expect and do expect to win due to their wards particular voting demographics.

Cutting the number of councillors to 30 would cause a harder fought election and quite possibly mean that people who vote for candidates other than "conservatives" would feel their vote would begin to mean something. At present it is conceivable that where a ward has three councillors then they can also consider to be in with a safe run for re-election each time.

Where expenses are concerned, I can see distinct savings cutting from 38 to 30 but probably only for the first year, possibly due to the higher work load on the lower number that would mean an increase in travel costs etc. However if we only have 30 instead of 38 then the increase would I presume be exponentially lower.

I believe that the redrawing and re-balancing of Ward Boundaries/Ward Populations will be required in line with the figures for the population for Shepway up to 2021 which are as follows

"Working age 66,300 decrease to 64,000	-2,300	-3.4%"
"Older people 22,700 increase to 28,500	+5,800	25.4%"

(Source: Interim 2011-based Sub National Population Projections, Office for National Statistics)

The figures are interesting, however they do not reflect that this area is an employment black spot and that if we do not have either Lydd Airport or Dungeness C Power Station, then the "working age" decrease will be higher, which will not mean a surplus of vacant or derelict houses, but I believe will lead to an increase in "second homes" for tourists who will not be added to the electoral roll, thereby lessening the voting population in the area.

Therefore I support the argument for cutting Shepway's Councillors from 38 to 30 and would appreciate sight of the subsequent provision reports on this matter.

Yours

Michael Kewer

[REDACTED]

paul Henderson

[REDACTED]

independant

Member of the public

[REDACTED]

02/12/2012 17:43

"1) No

2) None

3) Make it cheaper buy reducing the expences of Councillors."

Richard Arnold

[REDACTED]

Retired

Member of the public

[REDACTED]

15/11/2012 18:20

"I think that with the increase in home technology that the amount of councillors should be reduced to single numbers with the public voting online.

I think we should have an elected paid mayor too run the town as I think the public are fed up with the current party system it's not necessary to run a town this size and I think the money saved would be better spent regenerating the town and maintaining public services"

Hinds, Alex

 
Sent: 03 December 2012 15:33**To:** Reviews@**Cc:** Alanand PatDavis**Subject:** Boundary Review Responce

Mr Max Caller
Boundary Commission Chairman
Dear Sir

I am responding to the public consultation on possible boundary changes and reducing district councillors. First of all my message is a positive one for change and also some apologies for a 'last minute' response. My postal address may be within the Parish of Lydd, but as a resident on the coast it's hard to comprehend being part of Lydd. The Parish has two distinct communities, Town and Coast which are separated by a 'no man's land' of over three miles, at its closest point. The people of the coast are supposed to be currently represented, through their Lydd Parish council of sixteen, three of which also being Shepway District Councillors. However, the reality on the ground is very different, with no apparent recognisable attention ever seeming to reflect the numbers involved. The coastal people feel unrepresented and forgotten and have done for years.

There have been two formal referendums, supported and requested by the coastal people in order to bring some identity and proper governance. Unfortunately, although having excellent local support Shepway DC failed to recognize and endorse the view of the people. Apparently, it all appeared to 'hinge' on outrages statements of financial 'meltdown.' The current status remains of disenfranchisement and despair of ever having any proper recognition.

However, the light on the horizon for the Coastal Community may well lay with the Boundary Commission, by the merging of two Polling Districts, Lydd DB and DC with the neighbouring Parish of New Romney. The strong argument for this is that, although Greatstone, Lydd-on-Sea (Ladestone #) and Dungeness are part of Lydd, the local community feels their affinity with New Romney.

Firstly, there is a contiguous flow of housing along the coastal strip, right through Littlestone and into New Romney Town. Secondly, coastal residents do regard New Romney to be the place they attend for general shopping, most services and just going for a coffee or a meal. New Romney Parish Council, over the years has a well established positive track record of supporting their own coastal area and therefore giving it some identity. An enlarged Parish covering all the coast of Littlestone, Greatstone, Lydd-on-Sea (Ladestone #) and Dungeness could well, may be satisfy the Commission interests and the desires of the our Coastal Community

I very much hope the Commission will give due consideration to the boundary change suggestion outlined in this communication and be able to recommend efficiency of councillor numbers.

Thank you
Your sincerely

Ms Rochelle Saunders
Former Councillor and Mayor of Lydd



04/12/2012

Terry Parker

[REDACTED]

Retired

Member of the public

[REDACTED]

30/11/2012 13:26

"Shepway Council is vastly overmanned and could do with vigourous pruning !
Saying reducing the council to 30 members could, and should be , the start.
After a trial period it could well be the council could operate efficiently with
25 members. The area of Folkestone in which I live has TWO councillors, I've lived
here 30 years and only know ONE of them - I'm sure most of Shepway people are the
same."

Hinds, Alex

From: Morrison, William
Sent: 03 December 2012 09:41
To: Hinds, Alex
Subject: FW: Shepway District Councillors

From: Hinds, Alex
Sent: 26 November 2012 13:48
To: Morrison, William
Subject: FW: Shepway District Councillors

Alex Hinds
Review Assistant
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
76-86 Turnmill Street
London
EC1M 5LG
Tel: 020 7664 8534 | Fax: 020 7296 6227
Email: alex.hinds@lgbce.org.uk Web: www.lgbce.org.uk



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From: TIMOTHY GIBBS [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 November 2012 11:31
To: Reviews@
Subject: Shepway District Councillors

Sir,

Please be advised that I would support the reduction of Councillors to 30 (any chance they could be sensible ones!!).

Tim Gibbs