

From: Town Clerk (New Romney) [mailto:townclerk@newromneytc.co.uk]

Sent: 27 March 2013 16:14

To: Reviews@: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Electoral Review of Shepway

FAO: Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) / Peter Wignall – SDC

Further to previous comments from New Romney Town Council in respect to the Electoral Review of Shepway (see below), I can now confirm that the Town Council has no further comment to add but would wish to emphasise that the views expressed by New Romney Town Council were based on the Boundary Commission's own criteria, which the Town Council feels are appropriate criteria for assessing any changes.

Mrs Catherine Newcombe - Town Clerk
New Romney Town Council
Email: townclerk@newromneytc.co.uk

27th March 2013

From: Town Clerk (New Romney) [mailto:townclerk@newromneytc.co.uk]

Sent: 19 March 2013 12:54

To: 'reviews@lgbce.org.uk'

Subject: FW: Electoral Review of Shepway

From: Town Clerk (New Romney) [mailto:townclerk@newromneytc.co.uk]

Sent: 19 March 2013 12:35

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: reviews@lgbce.org

Subject: Electoral Review of Shepway

FAO: Peter Wignall – SDC / Boundaries Commission

Please see below New Romney Town Council's initial response to the Electoral Review of Shepway. A full and final response will follow in due course..

- 1) The Shepway District Council (SDC) document is factually flawed as presented. For example: page 38-39 figures incorrect et al. The document needs to be re-written with the incorrect figures and other discrepancies amended and re-issued for consultation.
- 2) The time-scale provided by Shepway District Council to comment on its document was unreasonable; there was not sufficient time for New Romney Town Councillors to fully evaluate the information presented in the 44 page document as Members were not given three clear days notice of the response deadline, let alone allowing for three clear days notice in order to convene a meeting to discuss the matter prior to responding. The SDC document was only received at approximately 14:00 hours on Friday 15th March, with a response deadline of Tuesday 19th March, giving only one clear day's notice. Fortunately, a Town Council Meeting had already been convened for Monday 18th March 2013 with an agenda item to allow consideration of a response to the Electoral Review of Shepway consultation, however, due to the constraints of the postal service, additional information provided by SDC would not have arrived before Monday and due to ICT technical issues, it was not possible to put this information before Members until immediately prior to the meeting. Had the required three clear days notice been provided this issue could have been overcome.
- 3) Councillors felt that the Boundary Commission's statutory criteria had not been under-written or correctly applied in the SDC proposals, contrary to the Boundary Commission's dictat. For instance, the requirement that strong boundaries be established – the Potato Factory Development in Cockreed Lane, New Romney, should be part of the New Romney electoral ward, extending as it does from the Town, if a strong boundary had been considered.
- 4) The Boundary Commission also states that community identity is a required criteria but Councillors felt that grouping of small, remote villages and hamlets with a large town such as Lydd does not make for a strong and cohesive boundary with strong community identity. Furthermore, Members felt that as New Romney is the declared hub and service centre for the area, consideration should be given to apportioning it with additional representation, especially when housing development is taking place within a road's width of New Romney Town Ward's current boundary. Nevertheless, it was the general consensus of Councillors that they would be content with the proposed SDC representation of two District Councillors. However, it was strongly felt that the parish of New Romney should not be reduced in any way – they are content with the current Town Ward boundary as it is (perhaps with consideration to including the Potato Factory Development – see above), but felt that consideration should be given to extending the New Romney Coastal Ward to include Greatstone (Taylor Road). This would then match the TN28 postal code area which covers New Romney parish.
- 5) Whilst it was noted that there are no proposals to reduce the number of Town Councillors for New Romney, Members are, anyway, strongly opposed to any reduction in the number of New Romney Town Councillors, which currently number 16.

Please be reminded that the above comments are the initial response only of New Romney Town Council to the Electoral Review of Shepway Consultation, due to the extremely short deadline provided by SDC in which to respond to its own document, and that further and full comments will follow in due course and by the Boundaries Commission deadline of 8th April 2013.

Response prepared by:
Mrs Catherine Newcombe - Town Clerk
New Romney Town Council
Email: townclerk@newromneytc.co.uk

19th March 2013