



Review Officer Shepway District Council
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76 – 86 Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG

25th August 2013

SUBMISSION STATEMENT

Democracy is an important, much hackneyed word used to the point of almost losing it's meaning, but this situation is saved by the alternative, useful proverb well known to many - "of the people, by the people, for the people" which is easy to understand. In Shepway, at any rate, it does not happen. Unfortunately there is a huge flaw in local government "democracy" as it stands and it is regrettable that this state of affairs has continued for so long without change in the law to rectify the farcc that exists to this day. Of course it is not only in Shepway this situation continues. The farcical point is this; that where there are Town, Parish and Village councils these are seemingly obliged to cede their local representation to the will of the District Council so it follows that democracy and the voice of these small councils and their constituents is never considered or even heard, let alone, acted upon.

Three striking examples are:

1. The well documented March 2010 decision to agree the expansion of Lydd Airport against advice of expensive, paid consultants. To date development has not happened, despite Central Government endorsement but against the substantial local opposition from the people of Romney Marsh and the realistic possibility of recourse to the conventions of European law.
2. The SDC agreement to approve a leviathan development of dwellings (1050) on a gravel pit in west Hythe on land under well known danger of flooding that it is and was always patently obvious that there will be huge problems with infrastructure, traffic congestion, pollution and above all flooding, particularly for the under signed and our neighbours, being among those residents currently residing in the immediate locality.
3. Despite Government edicts to Councils to protect recreation land especially near to schools Shepway has approved building on land close to Folkestone Girls' School, Cooling Lane thus reducing available valuable space for young people to exercise.

The above represent just a fraction of the expenditure incurred, poor planning, utter waste and general mismanagement for which Shepway has been responsible over recent months and years to the point that the profligacy just last month extended to nearly £500,000 to dismiss some 19 employees under terms that included "gagging orders". WHY SHOULD THIS HAVE BEEN NECESSARY?. The inevitable conclusion is that considerable malpractice has occurred in this District that dare not be made public, gives rise to the charge of corruption so that not only a reduction from 46 to 30 councillors should be recommended by the LGBC but a clean sweep made of all of them with early inspection made of the books and Police indictments probably to follow to establish a possible return of money that has gone astray.

Forgive me please for mentioning Local Government in the form of Kent County Council, who placed £50m with Icelandic banks. Although County Councillors are chary about revealing such matters this was a crass error but serves to indicate the stupidity in local government in Kent. I am informed "it is coming back". Make of that what you will!

Disgustedly,

Dave Savva

John V Meek

