

Lindfield Parish Council

The Clock Tower House
Lindfield Enterprise Park
Lewes Road
Lindfield
West Sussex
RH16 2LH

Parish Clerk: Mr A Funnell

Tel: 01444 484115
e-mail: clerks@lindfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Mr Nick Burrell
West Sussex County Council
County Hall,
Chichester,
West Sussex.
PO19 1QT

08th June 2018

Dear Nick,

Thank you for your email dated 25th May 2018, inviting feedback on proposed changes to the County Local Committee (CLC) in our area.

We understand the reasons why the proposals have been suggested, however we have concerns with moving Lindfield into the North Mid Sussex CLC.

Whilst Lindfield has always striven to maintain its separate identity from the neighbouring town of Haywards Heath, it cannot be denied that for the purposes of the work of the WSCC CLCs there are advantages to viewing Haywards Heath and Lindfield holistically, particularly in road and traffic matters because measures taken in respect of one town or parish can have consequences for the other, since we are, in effect, both within the same road network.

Although we have argued the case for preserving the integrity of the built area of Lindfield and its separateness from Haywards Heath, we nevertheless consider that Lindfield and Haywards Heath should come under the same CLC. We are close neighbours with social, community and commercial links and our residents have many shared interests and concerns. We are very aware of the opportunities that the CLC afford to find out about matters that may be of concern for our Parish, or initiatives that we would wish to be involved in and to share information of mutual interest and benefit. If Haywards Heath and Lindfield are to be served by different CLCs such opportunities may be missed and we have concerns that one or other CLC might make a decision in respect of either the town or parish without the benefit of local knowledge about its neighbour which may be adversely affected by the decision.

The Parish Council has carefully considered the proposals, and as it did in 2016, considers that Lindfield should be in the same CLC area as Haywards Heath. Our Chairman, William Blunden, has spoken to Councillor Andrew Lea regarding this matter. Councillor Blunden believes the best solution for Lindfield and its surrounding towns & villages would be for the reintroduction of the Central Mid Sussex CLC. Ideally, we consider that the three CLC arrangement in Mid Sussex worked best and that the Central Mid Sussex CLC should be reintroduced, but if that is not possible, we urge WSCC to include Lindfield in the same CLC area as Haywards Heath.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Funnell
Parish Clerk