

---

**NINFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

---

CLERK & RFO  
Jackie Scarff  
The Red House  
Lower Street  
Ninfield TN33 9ED  
TELEPHONE : 0772 584 3505  
E-MAIL: clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk

---

By email c/o Trevor Scott

29<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Dear Members of Audit Finance and Governance Committee;

In August 2020 Ninfield Parish Council contacted Trevor Scott to request that the District Council support it in requesting a Principal Area Boundary Review be undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, seeking their recommendation to the Secretary of State that Ninfield Parish Council area be moved to the governance of Rother District Council.

In making any recommendation for a boundary change, Ninfield Parish Council is aware that boundary reviews are governed by section 8 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (as amended by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009) and it must have regard to:

- (a) the need to secure effective and convenient local government; and
- (b) the need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities

Ninfield Parish Council believe that governance in Rother District will meet these requirements more effectively for its residents, some of the reasons for this view are detailed below.

Ninfield is part of the Bexhill and Battle Parliamentary Constituency, the majority of which is in Rother;

Ninfield's postal address for the majority of the village is Battle, and where this is different, such as Potmans Lane, it is Bexhill;

Ninfield's health services are provided by the Hastings and Rother Commissioning Group;

Ninfield village doctors surgery is a branch of The Collington Surgery, which has merged with the Pebsham and Sea Road Surgeries in Bexhill ;

Although Ninfield is served by Ninfield CEP Primary School, if new residents are unable to get place for their children, as has happened recently, the children are placed at school in Rother (Battle or Little Common);

The catchment secondary school is Claverham Community College in Rother;

Claverham Community College does not have a 6<sup>th</sup> form college, so Ninfield's catchment area 6<sup>th</sup> form is Bexhill College.

Ninfield Is policed by Rother Police – one of the impacts of this is that decriminalised parking issues should be dealt with by East Sussex County Council rather than the police, but because Wealden have not followed the other districts in Ninfield this doesn't apply but Rother police do not deal with parking enforcement.

---

## NINFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

---

CLERK & RFO  
Jackie Scarff  
The Red House  
Lower Street  
Ninfield TN33 9ED  
TELEPHONE : 0772 584 3505  
E-MAIL: clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk

---

In addition to the above, as Rother based services are being delivered to Ninfield we believe if we were administratively attached to Rother District Council it would make lines of communication to these service providers possible.

Geographically Ninfield has more relevant connections with the Rother settlements of Bexhill and Battle for daily life, as they are closer than the nearest Wealden settlement and have better public transport links. Ninfield is approximately 10/15 mins from Battle or Bexhill by car or bus, whereas Hailsham is more than 20 minutes from Ninfield by car and more than 40 minutes by bus.

Furthermore, Ninfield is geographically surrounded on the North, South and East sides by settlements in Rother. Ninfield is flanked on the western boundary by Hooe and Wartling, both of which sit comfortably in the Wealden boundary and would remain unchanged by a change to Ninfield.

If Ninfield is removed from the Herstmonceux and Pevensey Levels Ward it would still not be the smallest ward in terms of electors per district councillor which should therefore allow Wealden District Council to avoid having to make any changes to the district wards in Wealden in the short term.

In December 2020 we conducted a survey of our residents, this involved delivering the survey to every elector in the village of Ninfield, the results and evidence of which were sent to Trevor Scott showing an overwhelming majority of residents supporting the move. There were in fact, only 6 residents who did not agree with the move.

We were strongly encouraged to request a second meeting by the Boundary Commission following our request to them, in addition our solicitor received a phone call from them commending the information we had supplied and acknowledging the position we are in.

Bringing us right up to date, the situations created by the pandemic and by the storm in February 2022 highlighted just how remote from Wealden we are. During the after effects of the storm all our help and support came from Rother District Council (information), Battle and Sedlescombe (bottled water supplies) and during conversations with the relevant utilities they confirmed that the help we received was determined by our Rother postal addresses. During the two years affected by the pandemic again we were directed to Rother for COVID testing, vaccinations and other help. In addition, not being in Rother put residents in a difficult position for their food shopping when the tier system was introduced as most residents go to Rother or Hastings based supermarkets due to the nearest Wealden based supermarket being a 15-mile round trip.

Many councils in the UK, including Ninfield Parish Council, have declared a climate emergency and everyone is well aware of the current emerging cost of living crisis, both of these events highlight

---

**NINFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

---

CLERK & RFO  
Jackie Scarff  
The Red House  
Lower Street  
Ninfield TN33 9ED  
TELEPHONE : 0772 584 3505  
E-MAIL: [clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk)

---

how important it is that local governance must reflect the identities and interests of local communities and the need to secure effective and convenient local government. In light of the above we feel very strongly that residents would be better served by Rother District Council, and critically the residents agree. We ask that you support our request for Principal Area Boundary Review be undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

Kind Regards

Jackie Scarff  
Clerk & RFO  
For and on behalf of Ninfield Parish Council