**Email sent to Wealden on 11th February 2020**

Dear Trevor

Further to your email of 28th January, Alfriston Parish Councillors are surprised and disappointed at your reluctance to answer straightforward and relevant questions about the decision making process that Wealden has undertaken in respect of the future management of the car parks in Alfriston. The questions that we posed are properly formulated and it must be in the interests of transparency and the democratic process that they are met with answers rather than avoidance.

Whilst we understand that the questions we have posed may not have been ones you were hoping or expecting to have to answer, Alfriston Parish Council do believe it adds very much to the democratic process for them to be answered by you. In fact, one would expect that, in advance of taking the decision that you have come to in respect of the future management of the car parks, all the matters about which we have asked questions would have been considered in depth by the decision makers, and so answers should not be difficult to provide.

You appear to object to questions that you say are “getting into asking about the meaning of specific words/phrases”. The words/phrases are your purported justification for the decision Wealden have taken, but in and of themselves they are meaningless. Hence the reason for asking after the true meaning behind them.

You are quite wrong to assert that the only aspect of Councillors’ questions that you have not addressed relates to future plans. If you intend to stand by that assertion perhaps you could point us to where exactly you have given the answers to the questions we have asked.

For the record, the only question that you have answered is our question at viii). Councillor Lunn has answered question xi) himself, and the answer poses the further question as to why our local representative member of Wealden District Council was not consulted at all in advance of your taking your decision?

You are correct in thinking that the response you have given is not one that Councillors or parishioners are seeking and we are firmly of the opinion that there is plenty more that you can usefully add. Therefore, we politely request that you answer properly the questions that have been asked of you, all of which are questions that the Council Tax payers of our parish are keen to have the answers to.

We would be grateful if you would respond to our questions within 7 days. If of course you feel that transparency and openness in the democratic process is not something that is called for, the Parish Council will have to consider whether to take more formal steps. However, we hope that it does not have to come to that.

Kind Regards

Victoria Rutt