

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk of the Council, Mrs. K Bell
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Mr M Raymond
 Corporate Services Manager
 Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
 Gibson Building
 Gibson Drive
 Kings Hill
 WEST MALLING
 Kent
 ME19 4LZ

27 June 2011

Dear Mr Raymond



CONSULTATION ON CHANGES TO KCC CHARGES FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

I write regarding the above.

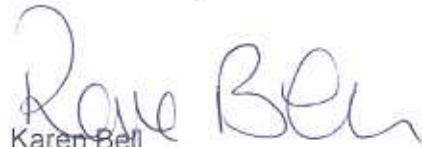
Thank you for inviting the Parish Council to comment upon the proposed changes to KCC Charges for Adult Social Care. The Parish Council would like to make the following comments:

1. The questionnaire is presented as a consultation document. In fact, there appears to be nothing consultative about it as no alternatives are presented. Defined dates are given for introducing an increase in fees. It appears that the decision to implement the increases has already been made. Asking people whether or not they wish to pay more is not consultation.
2. People are being faced with an increase in what they have to pay in the order of 15% to 40% on the examples given which are far more than the rate of inflation and any increases they receive in income (pensions, disability allowances etc).
3. Across social classes poorer people tend to experience poorer health. They are the most vulnerable and now face an even further erosion of their income.
4. The quality of life of these vulnerable and challenged people of all ages is being further compromised by these measures.
5. The DREA (Disability Related Expenditure Assessment) reduction is taking away even more from these challenged people.
6. Some individuals are likely to fall under more than one category and will be affected by more than one charge reduction. For example someone can fall under both the disabled and DREA categories. Has this been considered and taken into account?

As a Parish Council we are very concerned by the potential and cumulative impact of these measures on our residents in particular on those who are most vulnerable and challenged.

I would be grateful if these comments could be included within the body of TMBC's consultation response to KCC. The Parish Council has responded similarly to KCC.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Bell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Bell
Clerk to the Council