

Burgess Hill Town Council

PRESS RELEASE

22 April 2021

The Beehive – Statement re results

We thank everyone who participated in the Consultation on The Beehive project which closed at midnight on Wednesday 21st April. At closure a total of 2,983 surveys had been returned to Burgess Hill Town Council representing a good degree of public engagement.

We are now verifying the returns and the Town Council is mindful to ensure the integrity of the vote to prevent error, abuse and manipulation on a material scale that could lead to a misleading result. The verification exercise will be conducted, firstly, by council officers who act impartially. They will use information submitted by residents through the 2 separate voting forums, paper and on-line, to ensure only those eligible to vote have done so. This will include employing a range of techniques to:

- verify only Burgess Hill residents have voted,
- prevent multiple voting, and
- ensure the vote put in an individuals' resident's name is genuine.

When the officers have completed this exercise the results and the data will be submitted for external and independent verification. This will be conducted by the Parish Clerk of Fulking Parish Council who will verify the processes undertaken by the Town Council and confirm the validity of the result. This work will be completed on Thursday 29th April 2021.

When the two stages of verification have been completed, the results of the paper and online vote will be presented to the residents of the town. It will detail the total returns cast, the total YES and NO votes, and

details of the number of votes that failed the eligibility test and/or are spoiled, broken down into Yes and No.

As the County Council elections are being held on Thursday 6th May the Leader of Burgess Hill Town Council will announce the result of The Beehive poll on Friday 7th May at 1.00pm.

A YES vote will mean we can move to the next stage and apply for a loan from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. We want to stress it is not guaranteed the loan will be approved.

ENDS

For more information please contact Steve Cridland, 01444 247726

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