

for back up to arrive. It takes between 7 and 9 firefighters to effectively respond to a house fire in a small residential property but with the new staffing levels, the Bexhill appliance will only have 4 onboard. This will lead to a delay in dealing with the fire and risks lives.

- Proposal to downgrade The Ridge Fire Station in Hastings will have implications for those villages and farming communities in the east of our constituency like Northiam, Beckley and Peasmersh. The proposal to turn The Ridge Fire Station into a day-crewed station means that fire fighters who work on the station during the day will respond on call from home during the evening. This will lead to slower response times and could potentially put lives at risk.

The net effect of our concerns is that we now have a struggling fire service, without an element of resilience built in should multiple incidents occur at the same time. The reduction in appliances and personnel (both full time and part time) mean that in certain circumstances large areas of Bexhill and Battle could be without immediate cover and there could be a considerable wait for a fire appliance to attend if our rural and part time personnel are not available.

I look forward to receiving your response to this letter. We would be particularly interested in reviewing the risk assessment undertaken by the fire service leadership before these cuts were agreed. Are you able to share this with us?

Yours sincerely



Christine Bayliss  
Chair Bexhill and Battle CLP



Mark Legg  
Trade Union Liaison Officer