

Alexander Gunyon

From: Nigel Temperton [REDACTED]
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I am responding as a frequent visitor to the Canterbury District.

Name: Prof Nigel Temperton

Address: [REDACTED]

My comments are in relation to Chapters 1, 2, 5 and 6 of the Draft Local Plan and in particular to policy C12 of Chapter 2.

I am fundamentally opposed to the building of a new town with 2000 dwellings on prime agricultural land that is crucial for local biodiversity and is perilously close to ancient forests. Brownfield sites in the District should be accorded precedence for developments of this magnitude before any consideration is given to paving over the countryside. In situations where that is not achievable on a large scale, the Council should seek an urgent exemption from housebuilding targets set by the Central Government, based on the district's exceptional wealth of rich natural assets and heritage. In hastily advancing the C12 proposal, the Council is flouting their own policies by precipitously pushing forward a weak case in a manner that suggests it has been hurried through without sufficient deliberation and preparation.

Staff, students and parents are united in opposing the demolition of their beloved school. They are directly affected by the school's relocation. Ignoring their voices will lead to decisions that do not reflect the community's best interests and the overwhelming feeling that the Council works against the local community will become entrenched.

The hill's construction will require complex drainage systems to handle the increased water flow and shield the area from potential floods.

Prioritizing motor traffic could discourage cycling, contradicting environmental goals, and the local infrastructure may not be able to support the increased traffic without costly upgrades.

Preparing weight-restricted Rough Common Road for mammoth construction equipment and heavy commuter volumes from the new development would negatively affect the tranquillity, safety, and home values of this rural area.

The development would lead to a loss of habitat connectivity, essential for the migration and genetic diversity of species like the Nightingale.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Nigel Temperton, PhD, FRSB
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