

Alexander Gunyon

From: gillian broughton [REDACTED]
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FROM:
Gillian Broughton
[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.

My strenuous objection to the Plan concerns the proposed construction of a new town comprising 2000 residential units on prime agricultural terrain that is indispensable for sustaining local biodiversity and shares an ecological habitat with ancient woodlands. Prior to any consideration of paving over the rural countryside, brownfield sites within the District should be prioritized for developments of this substantial scale. In scenarios where that is not feasible on a large-scale basis, the Council ought to urgently petition for an exemption from housing targets mandated by the Central Government, grounded in the district's exceptional abundance of rich natural assets and heritage. By abruptly advancing the C12 proposal, the Council is acting in direct contravention of their own established policies, putting forth a feeble case in a manner that patently indicates it has been hurried through to meet the deadline without adequate forethought and preparation.

The construction will damage the permeability of the hill's surface, causing excess water to divert to lower farmlands, risking negative effects to crops in the vicinity, as well as to the natural habitat.

Urban areas increase the risk of chemical runoff, which could poison the ecosystems these species depend on. The supposed long-term benefits of a new facility to replace the school in Blean are completely overshadowed by the immediate negative impacts on students' education and community well-being, which will take years of subsequent adjustment, as the pandemic has proven.

Reconfiguring the narrow Rough Common Road to handle colossal construction vehicles and increased traffic would burdens that village with noise, congestion, and potential property damage.

The creation of a new junction in front of Kent College is likely to cause severe traffic congestion, leading to longer commutes and daily disruptions, which could also negatively impact property values in a wide area.

In addition to these points I am also very concerned at the disruption to life generally while and following any new developments on such a scale in such an area which is used so frequently for access to green space and leisure. These open areas are being increasingly acknowledged as so important for both physical and mental health and it would be lost forever. To remove this facility or make it a greater distance from those living in the area can only be damaging to their wellbeing. I am also a regular Park Runner and this would also be severely affected. This is a community organisation which has great benefits to people's mental and physical health and it is very difficult to find new venues that are accessible, provide the space for 5k running without roads etc. and with provision of facilities essential for such an event.

I sincerely hope that these considerations will be viewed very carefully.

Gillian Broughton