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Giles Snelling 02 June 2024 17:26 Consultations 0bjection to site c12 in the draft local plan

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this report addresses the pertinent & salient "hard facts" surrounding the catastrophic environmental impacts of the above plan regarding the sarre penn stream & its historic crab & winkle discontinued rail crossing which together formulate a most nature diverse crossroads corridor of extensive wildlife alongside its unique position as being the sole & vital only linkage between our 2 biggest areas of ancient woodland - all now under extinction threat. Also of even greater concern is the very fact that this university inducing project is most worrying placed directly above this 10 mile+ plus river courses fishbourne section where most of its historic water life is born, exists and thus provides such to the rest of its entire upper half section diverse wildlife existence. in brief we outline as follows;-

the historic fishborne section spans from the historic salt way route to whitstable - now formulated into uk's no.1 cycle path to variating end points just past the road bridge crossing canterbury hill road to & through tyler hill. its naming stems from the historic fact that the sarre penn which rises in a high point farm field at dunkirk just north of its main road to london - tends to dry up completly around every 15 yrs and thus very little survives - except in a very few small pools which are greatly reduced is size & oxygen whilst under major feeding frenzy attact from a multitude of predatory species - thus virtually nothing survives but in a positive way continues to thus "gives back" and supports so much more diverse wild life through the dire difficulties of the long - & now longer summer droughts. but then just below the university ancient wood complex 2 small streams faithfully continue all year round to be the only water supply from the south hillside to allow the sarre penn to begin again - hence why its called the fishborne where many "historical tribes" of 6 of its known 12 species of fish eak out in summer drought survival mode.

but these 2 small but vital constant pure water supply streams do only run till dry at varying points either side of the canterbury hill river bridge as noted & hence what few pools of water exist past this point onto where the clowes wood & thornden woods major stream joins at vale farm (and the major rushbourne stream later) also like wise get 99% life depleated plus from this half way point around calcott & its many fishing lakes etc.,where the sarre penn takes on a more major role & its wild life is likewise all very different - so what we are concerned with here, is not the last phase of the sarre penn flow & life forms but of its 1st springbourne ancient tribal & historic life forms & where below the university the fishbourne has historically kept so so much unique & diverse wildlife going - up till now! - and we shall get to this point later.

the 6 course fish varieties - the perch, dace, roach, rudd, trout etc. - are not of so much concern, since they are so mass introduced by the fishing fraternity that its virtually impossible to link any such back to any form of long term long existing local tribes etc.

what is of concern is the long existing fishbourne species now under mass extinction threat from the current c12 proposal.

these include - but probably not limited to ;- the minnow, 3 spined sticklebacks, gudgeon, bullheads, eels & stone loach - all of which have existed here since ancient times & now are under mass extinction threat - alongside all else in water like freshwater shrimps, water voles, water shrews, all the snake, amphibia frog & newt species etc., & so so much else that exists here on & around this half mile green space section known as the fishbourne.

we've talked of the 2-3 constant clear flow tiny life supporting streams that flow down the universities hillside south slope, we now turn to the shorter period flow streams that flow & eak their way down to this vital half mile life supporting river section from the contentious c12 northern hill slopes.

these include the far back amery court multi tracking stream which not only majorly flows parallel to both the sarre penn & the contentious proposed 2,000 homes somewhere? along the hoathe court farm tyler hill link road section, but also alarmingly slowly eak their way directly southward & down to enter the sarre penn. "alarmingly"? -(i shall soon explain. these northern slopes - now up for human encroachment) - & the closer stream complex arising round the st d&c church area to also flow both parallel to as well as direct into the sarre penn where it passes an area of farm land "under issue" and provides a good 8-10 month water supply to the penn as too does another such from its opposite uni hillside.

plus of most concern of all here - and a major reason why this proposal must fail - is that from the fishbourne's uk's crab & winkle oldest passenger rail line and thus longest redundant dismantled crossroads life supporting rail line too! - to the cycle/salt road fishbourne begin section which encompasses the 2-3 long fields between the 2 begin & end flow section. All this northern hillside section, in addition to supplying additional stream water directly into the sarre penn, also it is the case that this entire northern hillside section - the very section upon which "the plan" wishes to build human habitation upon - is by nature of all its streams, historic water rising wells & waterlog & water sodden conditions exist etc., This hillside is of your most major environmental concern since as it exists under a mass waterlogged state during the winter wet months, it also flows in megga sheets of entire length tsunami flows & at not 1 or 2, but several water entire length sheet flowing forms all due to the varying soil geology of differing & alternating soil/clay structures of differing porosity & permeability etc.

this is evidenced most clearly by the parrallel cross field imprints of heavy tractors & farm machinery & as well as of these fields differing plant forms and differing states of growth & lushness. so we can say as follows;-

water flow both along top as well as down the north slopes of this half mile fishboune section & then into the penn's fishbourne section flows in at least the following tsunami water sheet flow levels;-

1. visible trickles all along and downward at surface

2. lower sheet flows as evidenced by slight heavy machinery trenched trackings

3. lower sheet flows as evidenced by deep heavy machinery trackings

4. even deeper water sheet flows as evidenced by deep machinery trackings but without any sign of water & entrenched soil as well as surrounding soil is much dry.

5. surface lushness of increased growth - indicating deeper underground water flows

6. at varying up/down hillside points water-loving plants such as reeds exist indicating deeper underground flows.7. no north hillside underground water flows detected but water rises at river banks upper edges esp. during the wet seasons

8. same as above but water only shows & flows into sarre penn that was in high flow flood mode but within say 12-24 hours has dropped back some 2-4 feet depth to reveal water stream inflows at its banks lowest basal entry points.

why is all this is of such concern, we now give the historical and current details of what is affecting the life support condition of this vital multi life supporting area & the sarre penn's very existence itself!

historically, as noted above, the sarre penn is of habit and water depleated resouces such that it dries up approx. every 15 yrs. when this happens, about 90+% of everything within dies or gets eaten as oxygen drops, water temp rises, ph changes etc etc., & predators enjoy a feeding frenzy.

but after 3-5 yrs. much returns from both the more hardy tiny baby fish forms, from the very few deep pools that can still support - but only a few of the 6 noted local tribal species unfortunately, and by upper ingress of "fresh life forms" from the tyler hill trout/course fish lake water overflows, other lower prominent side streams & side lakes and the penn's deeper water sections and from its complex connecting points with the wansum, gt. stour and nailbourne joining points etc etc. plus even from being carried in the feathers of passing ducks etc..

but it is the case that since the last 2 world wars & thus of mankinds more pro active endeavour to farm more extensively following the wars rationing period and upon farmers having to use farm chemicals to produce more food more efficiently to sate and expanding human population, this sarre penn river - as too with all rivers across the globe - quickly became under great stress and mass attack & from many conflicting sides.

this all became most allarmingly so in the year 2021 & 2022! & again throughout 2023!!

this mass attack threat we roll out as follows, as it happened & is in the process of possibly being concluded very very soon!

1. as said, every 15 yrs - almost to clockwork, the sarre penn's source dries up & 90+ % of everything in it is extinguished- & much that relies on its support, is as a consequence lost or deeply threatened too!.

this happened - on time - during the now "new normal" conditions of our human induced period of climate change. 2. but then during the long hot summer of 2022, the sarre penn streams source dried up yet again!! - a new 1st! and thus all that was left of that 10% of what managed to survive the previous years human induced drought, was under strain yet again! and thus 90+% of this 10% was also lost. I know we are talking ball park simplistic maths here but the result is 2023 was left with only 100% minus 90% = 10%, 10% minus 90% = 1%.

then in 2023 we all had to endure the sewage leaks & mass out flow scandals into both our seas & rivers & the sarre penn was no exception.

the local press had reported on the blean pumping station failing which led to a mass sewage spill and a report 1,000 fish seen dead in just its 1st 300 meter section. thats a lot of fish! but before we here of this, at calais hill end of the fishbourne section, i report here that at its bridge section approach some 20+ then unexplaind dead fish seen upended and in clear show due to their white upended under parts. but of more concern was that these fish were minnows!

why? well, minnows are know to survive in the harshest of extremes and various variations of conditions plus are renown to be one of the few - or only - species that can survive mass sewage overflows! so the fact that some mile further down stream they too were dying in droves, indicates just how severely stressed the sarre penn has now become and exacerbated much more than ever before by climate change, imposing growth & human spread, lack of rain, longer & hotter summers, wetter winters & now excessive human sewage outflows and with no sign of any adequate redress at all.

so here we are in 2024 with the sarre penn river course system at its last straw

threadbare existence with much in it and around it at a peak max life threat and

yet the university wants to build on its northern hillside! - right above & over its precious life supporting fishbourne section.!!! - its total & reckless madness!

but there's more! now back to its water sodden multi depth tsunami inflows all as described above .

up until the 1920's the use of human fertilzers & farm spread chemicals and the farm & general household chemicals etc., all was not much, basic and of low concentrations and of low effects. then the 2 world wars kept this in check until the 1950's & 1960's where, to feed a growing & fast expanding nation that had been under low food production and rationing for some 40 yrs. suddenly the rise in all forms of both farm & general house chemicals took hold and became the "new norm" and all alongside the chemicals becoming stronger, more concentrated and more effective at all the effecting ways they increasingly became.

now back to the north hillside of the sarre penn where the council & university - due to severe financial conditions, are now driven to put forward this c12 proposal - which to be fair - would be good for humans - but countered to be one of the most catastrophic threats to so so much wide & diverse wildlife forms on & around it.

its fact that since the 1960-70's the fishbourne sections north face hillside has been increasingly applied to with farm chemicals - the phosphates, nitratates. nitrites, potashes, amonias etc. and all with increasing power, concentration and to have increased effect & with the pesticides, these too are super advanced to have more life ending effect. but, we look today and see - the sarre penn is still with life - but only just.

but it is the most pertinent of facts that this water sodden north hillside is with

more potential to have more chemicals of mass destruction added to it.

up till now, the climate has been kind enough to let these chemicals slow drip feed down to the sarre penn, but now, with summers becomming longer & hotter & dryer - this means the hill side and its top - is holding back the mass chemical load for longer, and when you factor in the wetter winters alongdside the wet multi depth layering of its flowing water sheeting, then we are entering a time when the balance of life is now dramatically under threat since in this new normal of hotter longer summers, more chemical build up upon its surface and then when the late wetter winter period arrives bang! a giant big tsunami multi layered multi differentiating layers of water absorbed differing chemicals get more rapidly and more effectively down hill & into end all life due to this climate changed environment & if houses get built - which is madness to do so directly and solely above this life supporting fishbourne section - then this addition of household to drains entry chemical additions car chemicals to road drains & ground plus all the other urban existing chemicals so used by us, then that mass multi layering tsunami of extra chermical outpourings will surely end the fishbourne's ability to keep alive what few survive all the other impositions that are increasingly born down upon it & from many man & man induced climate changed circumstances, this, plus the very water efficient down hillside drive of all those multi layered water flows plus the 2 parallel & direct feeding streams...

that's just the overview of the direct threat to the sarre penn. now we place before the council planners, listings of all else that is found to exist and to be so perilously hanging on upon this unique & most precious and multi diverse cross road section of diverse wildlife.

all 3-4 species of snakes, all 3 shrews pigmy, common & water. all 3 newts and some of the once many forms of the once abundant tyler hill frogs. just 1 sighting of a mother water vole and young following their mass demise by the american mink from some 50+ pairs only 20 yrs ago.

someone in the blean project noted logging 60 species of bird but i can report here that at the bottom of this south end of the fishbourne my personal sightings over past 40 years of over 72 different birds - 72! - of which at least 20 of them are on the endangered red list & 16 are on the vulnerable amber list & 2 are alternating between the 2 endangered at threat and of serious concern.

so that's 30 precious & rare bird species alone, now to have their very existence threatened by you! - the city planners who we entrusted to serve us all - wildlife as well as humans alike.

so one question - just 1

who, in your planning dept - upon now gaining & having these facts - is going to continue to support the "Terminator" cash strapped unstoppable "i only have a plan a" cash strapped mentality of the short sighted university administration team - who is going to sign off on what could become one of the biggest environmental disasters to befall this county, this country, who is simply going to - yet again - put human concerns before that of our 90-97% depleated wildlife & all within our lifetimes.

your purported "20 % environmental offsetting" etc. is totallly meaningless when if taken with any real seriousness really means 20% of the less than 1% that is all that we now have following the new later summertime and spring chemical tsunami extinctions now taken & taking place.

there are other ways, other posible options that can, with diligent focus applied,

can help resolve our precious city life supporting universities cash shortage problems.

as you know, the union of these 3 parishes here into the new blean forest parish

and are thus burdened to do their very best and utmost to save our ancient woodlands etc. well, i also work with one of asias top forest univeristies and perhaps if lord cameron came on board, uk could go to china and link up these 2 universities eco experts in all things of conservation concern and hey presto - this is one example where uk & china can do so useful and much needed academically team sharing work & all with a bit of china/ uk government cash support where no cameras, & thus no security matters could be any issue of concern.. teamwork, global teamworking. dire population mass exspansion necessitates we all do this! well, that just 1 plan b - there will be others that like this plan b - could produce a win win all round - for humans and for wildlife.

we cant keep going on stating that wildlife impact is minimal or offset when already this has produced over 90% of everything wildlife now gone.

the 6th mass extinction is here, it really is! - all biologists & environmentalists are screaming this out - loud and clear - fact not fiction.

so its time we all took a turn to help the wildlife.

so again, who in your planning team is going to sign off on this, the most catastrophic destruction of so much diverse wildlife forms on the northern fronts of our perecious & unique city? - where it really is still possible us, the university and wildlife can still co exist if even for just a short timeframe longer.

ps. the grren stripes on this 2,000 house build ridiculous & dedsperate plan show green stripes north south - so putting green screening up for the sake of us humans - no! - the most needed green stripe screenings need to be horizontal east west - so necessitating the vital & only corridor for which our precious wildlife can freely move east west - else - again catastrophically - this current plan will make wildlife depleating islands of both east and west blean woodlands.

g r a snelling - consulting conservationist across the globe