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From: Hannah Attwell [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 June 2024 15:46
To: Consultations
Subject: Chapter 2 (Canterbury), Policy C12 - Objection

Categories: Blue category

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I object to the proposed University of Kent development (Chapter 2 (Canterbury), Policy C12)

Having been a resident of Whitstable for the last [REDACTED] years, I believe that the building of 2000 new homes in the area should not go ahead on the following grounds:

INCREASE IN TRAFFIC:

A development of 2000 homes will mean an extra 2000-4000 cars on the road. This will have a huge detrimental effect on the local area in the form of traffic, pollution and noise pollution. The village of Blean will be overrun with traffic as will the one road leading from this new development into Canterbury.

The unresolved access issues with the development will cause a huge build up of traffic on the Whitstable road into Canterbury.

HUGE DAMAGE TO WILDLIFE and WOODLANDS:

The proposed area for the siting of this enormous development is rich in bio-diversity and wildlife that needs to be protected. Canterbury City council unanimously voted to declare a Biodiversity Emergency in October 2023. This development will only increase the state of emergency in our area.

There are many species of birds present in the area, including Skylarks, yellow hammers and swifts that are all on the RSPB Red List of species that have either suffered severe declines, or are threatened with global extinction.

At least two protected species of bat (brown long-eared bats and pipistrelle bats) are present in the area proposed for development as well as several other small mammals.

Great crested newts, a protected species have been found in many areas around the proposed development site, as well as several other amphibians and reptiles.

The development of the site between Blean and Tyler Hill will close off the wildlife corridor that currently joins East and West Blean and this will forever remove the possibility of re-wilding the area and thus increasing bio-diversity.

The irreversible loss of these wildlife habitats will mean a huge and permanent loss of wildlife in an area of peace and beauty which enriches the people of Canterbury and the surrounding areas.

There are also several heritage sites either adjoining or inside the proposed area.

The Crab and Winkle way/Roman Salt Road is a National Cycle Network route which is used and enjoyed by a huge number of local residents and visitors to the area.

DESTRUCTION OF FARMLAND:

The proposed plan involves the destruction of more than 100 hectares of Grade 3 agricultural land, which is used for a mixture of livestock grazing and arable crops.

Our Agricultural land needs to be protected ensure our food security. The UK is facing several challenges to our food supply chain caused by climate change and limits on global trade. We need to ensure that prime agricultural land is kept for food production and not lost forever. National government is beginning to write this into Food and Land-use strategy, and Local Planning Policy is expected to incorporate this into their decisions soon.

The University of Kent recently committed to being a Right to Food University: "In adopting this basic human right, we commit ourselves to promote food justice, tackle food poverty and transform our food system so that it operates to advance human health and an environmentally sustainable society."

University of Kent's proposed development is not in line with this agenda. It would have a huge, detrimental and irreversible effect on the local area's farm land

LACK OF AMENITIES:

A new development will put yet more strain on doctor's surgeries, dentists, schools and hospitals in the area. It is already impossible to get an appointment at the doctor. There is only one A&E in the area in Margate which is stretched to breaking point. There are NOT ENOUGH AMENITIES to support any new developments.

FLOODING and DROUGHT:

The development will increase the flood risk in the local area due to the amount of buildings, paved gardens and tarmac roads. It will also cause a big increase demand for water in an area which has seen several hosepipe bans over the last few years due to lack of water

The loss of this area of countryside will be irreversible and cannot be replaced

I object strongly to this development going ahead.

Hannah Sheldon

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