

## Alexander Gunyon

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**From:** Sue Hodgkins [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 03 June 2024 17:24  
**To:** Consultations  
**Subject:** Local Plan re The Blean

**Categories:** Green category

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Susan Hodgkins  
[REDACTED]

RE: Local Plan, with regard to **The Blean**

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to urge you to **reject** the proposals put forward by the University, re selling off land for a 2,000 home 'development'.

- We need affordable housing, agreed; but I would urge you to consider first and foremost the empty spaces above offices and shops. They have been built, they have utilities, they only need converting – surely a cheaper and much 'greener' option. People moving into existing urban areas would have less need of cars for everyday use. I used to live in the city centre myself, and walked to the shops and work.
- This is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. We need to stop further destruction, not hasten it. The Blean area comprises ancient woodland, a rare and threatened habitat and a National Nature Reserve, and a vital source of recreation and wellbeing for locals. Noise and pollution would have a hugely negative impact on the wildlife therein.
- There is much scientific data on the value of green spaces to health – mental and physical – which in turn constitutes a big saving to the NHS. People need green space for their own wellbeing. Turning the surrounding villages into suburbs would destroy their appeal and the whole character of the area, and negatively impact quality of life for the existing residents.
- Farmland. We need to maintain what food security we have, not lose more of it.
- Water quality. We all know about the state of the seas around Kent, and how freely Southern Water pollute them every time it rains hard. The infrastructure cannot cope with more waste. Water shortages too are already a major concern.
- Roads and congestion. A new town – that's what 2,000 homes is – would mean probably twice that number of cars added to an already congested area, with increased pollution and decrease in air quality. In my experience, on still summer days there is a haze of pollution over the city, seen

clearly from the far end of the New Dover Road, when approaching Canterbury. We never used to see this.

Please help maintain the 'Garden of England' as such, rather than expedite its conversion to a concrete jungle.

Sincerely,  
Mrs S. Hodgkins