

Alexander Gunyon

From: Robert Duggan [REDACTED]
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Categories: Green category

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Dr Robert Duggan
[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am responding as a former resident, now a frequent visitor to the Canterbury District. 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 very concerned about and take exception to the Plan concerning the building of a new town with 2000 dwellings on prime agricultural land that is crucial for local biodiversity and shares an eco-habitat with ancient forests of remarkable biodiversity impact. Prior to even contemplating paving over the countryside, brownfield sites in the District should be accorded precedence for developments of this magnitude. 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 of ecological importance. In precipitously and impulsively advancing the C12 proposal, the Council is flouting their own policies by hastily and hurriedly pushing forward a weak and inadequate case in a manner that suggests it has been hurried through unexpectedly without sufficient thinking.

The proposal to demolish an outstanding and beloved school without considering less invasive alternatives raises questions about the commitment to the community's well-being. Exploring options such as phased construction or the building of a new school before the existing one is razed to the ground would demonstrate a dedication to minimising the upheaval for students and preserving the school's value role in the community. Many of the species, such as the Great Crested Newt, are legally protected, and their habitats' destruction would be a legal violation. Any new roads built over walking and cycling paths will act as a barrier to wildlife movement and diminish the quality of life for residents, replacing tranquillity with the hustle and bustle of traffic.

"Upgrading" the narrow, weight-limited Rough Common Road into a trunk road for massive construction machinery and further Canterbury commuter traffic would have a substantial negative impact on this community in terms of pollution, noise, congestion, and potential damage to dwellings. The hillside construction will lead to increased water retention in the fields, raising flood occurrences for the community and leading to higher insurance premiums.

Yours faithfully,

Robert Duggan