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From: Claudine Nutley [REDACTED]
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Categories: Green category

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Dear Planning Officers and Members,

I am a retired academic of the University of Kent and on 4 days a week I serve as a volunteer in the City. I am deeply concerned about and object to the planning proposals for The Blean as contained in the draft plan.

The land proposed for the building of 2,000 houses is grade 2-3 farmland and its loss as farmland would adversely impact on food supply in the local and wider area at a time when cheap food imports are rapidly in decline. The loss of this arable land would also adversely impact on the character of the local area. Further the soil is mainly clay and therefore has poor drainage properties and the land often floods. Without pushing this propensity to flooding on to neighbouring areas how would this issue be effectively managed at cost to the developers?

The proposed development is in close proximity to multiple conservation sites and is out of character with the surroundings. It would undoubtedly have a massively adverse impact on these conservation sites and their conservation work. For instance impacts from the construction work and introduction of a minimum of 4,000 new inhabitants holding assumptions, such as the right to roam/walk dogs wherever one pleases; and the extra pollution from a large number of vehicles. Sadly good air quality is not a feature of Canterbury and its surrounding area. This proposal would just add to the 'poor air quality' issue which challenges Canterbury.

The local primary school at Blean has a capacity for 469 pupils. Clearly the proposed development would present a pupil intake need in considerable excess of this size. Current local school provision is inadequate to meet the needs of this development. Who is going to fund the provision of extra school places?

Patients of the NHS hospital and GP Surgeries in Canterbury and surrounding areas are already acutely aware, from personal experience, of the huge gap between provision and need in these medical services. Where is it proposed that the extra NHS provision for a minimum of 4,000 new residents is coming from?

Policing too is stretched in Canterbury and surrounding areas challenged as it already is with the more serious type of crime with which the Force in current times has to contend.

Highways in and around Canterbury it appears (from other recent proposals) is a constant challenge to the Authority. As a regular consumer of the Park and Ride system I am very impressed with this partial answer to the challenge. But generally the road networks and maintenance of road surfaces in Canterbury are woefully inadequate in places and not up to taking regular extra use from the large additional vehicle demands created by this proposal and its some extra 4,000 vehicles.

Whilst one sympathises with the challenges due to funding gaps faced by the University of Kent this is really an issue to be addressed with Central Government and their politicians. I object to this proposal by the University of Kent on the grounds it imposes such adverse impacts and unacceptable challenges to the local environment in Blean and surroundings and to the infrastructure.

Yours faithfully,

Claudine Nutley

