

Paula Steeden

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21st May 2024

University of Kent – Proposed new rural settlement of 2000 houses between Blean, Tyler Hill and Rough Common

Policies Chapter 2, Policy C12, Chapter 1 Q1 and Chapter 1 Q2

I would like to strongly oppose the proposed proposal for the new rural settlement at the above location. Whilst I am not opposed totally to provisions of housing for the future, I feel that there are much better ways to achieve this.

One way to achieve this would be to assess any brown field areas that could be re developed – ie empty shops/commercial premises, (in and above) abandoned properties and waste land within the district. This would ensure that valuable green spaces would remain intact for all to enjoy and in areas like high streets there would be no need for so many cars which would go along way towards reducing the impact of traffic within the outskirts of existing residential areas of Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable thereby reducing pollution both air and light.

My main reason for objecting is as follows:

The volume of traffic along the roads, ie Hackington Road, Whitstable/Blean Road and Rough Common Road would be unacceptable. The Link Road into Tyler Hill Road which links the surrounding roads would certainly not be able to support any increase in inevitable traffic. Consideration has to be taken into account further afield of the proposed developments from Herne Bay and Chestfield area which will, obviously, if approved in any size have a major impact on the amount of traffic, pollution and flow. My understanding is that a full assessment by Highways has not been completed and issued for public domain so how any proposals can even be considered is confusing.

By increasing the population into such a condensed area would have the inevitable detrimental effect to all public services which are already struggling on a day to day basis. By spreading out the areas of development this would spread out the workload and availability which would be a benefit to all. As I am sure councillors are aware the population of Blean/Tyler Hill and Rough Common has the potential to increase to 10,000. I appreciate that the Council is under pressure to increase housing by the National Government, but has it been taken into consideration that we are a City with several large Universities and the population goes up and down depending of term time or not.

This proposed area is in the centre of Blean Woods area which is close the links to the Sarre Penn Valley. As constantly reported world wide Wildlife and Biodiversity are extremely

important to the future of the plan and generations. This development would have a very detrimental effect as so widely reported.

Another concern is the wastewater proposals. The proposals would have the potential of bighting existing residents home and the wildlife which is already established. I also understand that gully suckers have been proposed and Tyler Hill Road certainly could not take this weight where there is a weight limit of 7.5 tonne. This road is very narrow and dangerous without lights and footpaths.

The above are my main reasons to request that this proposal be stopped in its tracks and the time and money which it is incurring is spent on looking at alternatives for the future and wellbeing of both the population and environment. I feel that the elected Councillors have a duty to ensure that the district of Canterbury is protected not just now but also in the future.

Kind regards

Paula Steeden