

ATTENTION LEADER OF CANTERBURY – Councillor Alan Baldock

To the Authorities in charge of the **CONSULTATION DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN**

IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION FROM SOME OF THE MANY WHO do not have a computer and or could not cope with the complications of answering the LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

3rd June 2024

Dear Councillor Alan Baldock

We want to advise you that many people in the Blean Area, we discovered, were not all computer literate OR did not have a computer and were concerned about not having **their rightful SAY about the Local Plan** regarding how it will affect their lives as Blean residents.

So we went around to help and found so many were very keen to put their views forward and were delighted with our help – so we drew up a form for them and were told to state on each one: DIGITALLY EXCLUDED – ie they would NOT have been able to make their views felt via the computer so they did by this form which we have put in separate envelopes. **PLEASE DO TAKE THESE GENUINE REPLIES into consideration and do not just discard them because they are not done by email.** We ourselves addressed the envelopes for these people, but the forms have been filled up and signed by them. We believe many many more have also missed the opportunity and this form would have helped them. So PLEASE NOTE that these have been sent to you on their behalf. We feel they illustrate the importance of the below paras that the Council have included:

“The Council is working to a government-imposed deadline of 30 June next year to get this plan over the line so we’re keen to hear everyone’s views and will be working hard to give people the opportunity to have their say.

People can rest assured that all of the responses we received in the consultation we carried out in October 2022 have been carefully analysed and will be shared with the planning inspector that will eventually examine this plan.

With kind regards

Sonia Copeland and Charles Lord [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

*We would like to add personally that by knocking on many many front doors and talking to as many people as possible, every single person in Blean, Tyler Hill and Rough Common, is fiercely opposed to this Proposal for Blean and feel it will completely destroy Blean forever and must at all cost NOT be accepted.

PS I know my son [REDACTED] would agree on our views of the adverse affects this Plan would have on us all.

SAVING THE BLEAN – Important Note: * To respond in time, now urgent, in the designated way, go to <https://www.savetheblean.org/respond-to-the-consulation-by-3rd-june> in the designated way or on FACEBOOK. Essential to include your name/s and address/es, & make it clear which Policies your comments relate to: ie Chapter 2, Policy C12, for Uni of Kent development affecting Blean so adversely as all the formal paperwork explains. This is presented in an easier way for those affected locally who wish to protect and have not yet done so in time for 3rd June.

To: Local Plan Consultation District Local Plan, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW as a response to ‘HAVE YOUR SAY’, to the Local Plan Consultation, by those living in the designated areas and will be so badly affected.

We, people of Blean, would like to protest very strongly to the Canterbury City Council’s new draft Local Plan which is out for Consultation with a proposal for a ‘new rural settlement’ of 2000 houses, shops and offices, which will absolutely ruin the unspoilt countryside between Blean, Tyler Hill and Rough Common. As we all understand the development area would be twice the size of the walled part of Canterbury, on land presently belonging to the University of Kent to raise money for them. Is it actually legal to turn a village into a town without proper permission? The University, taking ultimate responsibility for this proposal which they hope Canterbury City Council will accept, is presenting a terrible legacy for us all to have to put up with.

Chapter 1) LOCAL IMPACT: It would seem important to realise that with such an increase in population it would be necessary that the areas affected by the extra build is well supported by Public Services, GP’s and schools, although apparently another school may be built and evidence that this will happen is going to be important.

TRAFFIC: The local impact on our already too busy roads would be unacceptable and dangerous – already the area’s country narrow lanes have no pavements for walks to walk and more being used by more cars and heavy lorries. This development would ensure driving would be considerably worse and more dangerous for us all.

ACCESS: The two main access points for traffic are both on Whitstable Road near the Rough Common roundabout – one involving Blean Primary School and the other is via a Conservation area that includes the wonderful Crab & Winkle cycle route and Grade 11 listed buildings. It is truly terribly to think of a rural, car -dependent development of this scale here and how it would affect us all. What about the expense of destroying Blean School to create a new one. The EXPENSE should be a MAJOR concern to the Council.

RURAL LANDSCAPE – Blean is one of the most beautiful areas surrounding Canterbury, with its woodlands, orchards and farm land, and it would be a complete TRAVESTY to destroy it with this dreadful, unthought out plan which would ruin it...We do not know what legal restrictions should be in place NOT to go ahead with this plan, but certainly this aspect should be thoroughly looked into. **This Plan would undoubtedly ruin Tyler Hill, Blean & Rough Common, affecting all the people living in this delightful area.**

HERITAGE – such a proposal would have a dreadful impact on many ‘heritage assets’ including the Church of St. Cosmus and St Damian as well as its setting, **the remains of a Roman Village of Medieval Tile Kilns** (both scheduled monuments), multiple Listed Buildings and multiple Conservation Areas. This should NOT be allowed, could be illegal, and in fact, the Council’s Environmental Strategy set out in the original Local Plan says “the districts Heritage assets are highly sensitive to change and the Council is committed to protecting and, where possible enhancing the historic environment. *This Proposal would ruin the Church which has been part of Blean Village for centuries.*

WILDLIFE and BIODIVERSITY – this development site is right in the middle of the Blean Woods area, surrounded by various parts of the National Nature Reserve. There are MANY incredibly RARE & endangered species living in the fields, ponds, hedgerows & Sarre Penne Valley. The Council’s other Policies say how **important** it is to connect up the areas of woodland, & to protect & promote its wildlife, which is incredibly important in the WORLD TODAY, now fast being dissipated by the lives of us human buildings. It is the DUTY everyone to protect all wild life and nature on our Planet, on which we all depend on for everything, & which this plan would so ruin in the most devastating way, & should be taken up with the Government.

FOOD & FARMING: This proposed Development would mean the loss of large areas of the “best and most versatile” Grade 2 and Grade 2 agricultural land (scored out of 5). The former Local Plan includes a policy to protect the best quality agricultural land outside of urban and settlement boundaries. There is no way to say how *disgraceful* it would be for this Plan to lose such land needed so badly for growing food for us all. This is yet again, another disgraceful, possibly illegal aspect of this Plan which should, at all cost, surely NOT be approved by Canterbury City Council.

FINALLY the proposed development includes the addition of Waste Water treatment works in the northern part of the planned area. Sanitation is already a big problem in and around Blean. This plan has to potential to worsen it in an even more serious way for many properties in the area – yet another disaster of this Plan for us all.

UNDOUBTEDLY THIS DISASTROUS PLAN SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN & most of the people living here would certainly want it to be rejected by CCC.

This form is to help people who are not yet able to respond formally, see details above, in time. PLEASE FILL IN THE BELOW if you agree with the points made in this Protest paper above and if you are happy to sign your support for it, as an easier way to **Protest at Canterbury City Council’s new draft plan out now for Consultation until June 4th**, proposing a new “rural settlement” of 2,000 new houses, shops and offices in the unspoilt countryside between Blean, Tyler Hill & Rough Common.

Signed: Please put your name/s and address VERY CLEARLY & your signature/s:

YOUR Name/s:

YOUR Address:

YOUR SIGNATURE/S