

## Alexander Gunyon

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**From:** Stuart & Dorothy Hutchinson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 20 May 2024 17:23  
**To:** Consultations  
**Subject:** Fwd: Draft Canterbury District Local Plan 2040: Policy C12 - Land north of the University of Kent

**Categories:** Blue category

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**From:** Stuart & Dorothy Hutchinson [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Sun, 19 May 2024 at 19:11  
**Subject:** Draft Canterbury District Local Plan 2040: Policy C12 - Land north of the University of Kent  
**To:** [consultations@canterbury.gov.uk](mailto:consultations@canterbury.gov.uk)

As residents in Canterbury since [REDACTED], we write to object utterly to the proposals for the land north of the University of Kent.

These proposals envisage the despoiling of an area which must be among the loveliest attributes of the city. We have been walking, running, and cycling there, since we came to Canterbury over 50 years ago. Our children went to Blean school and benefited immensely from its rural environment.

But the proposals intend to demolish this outstanding school, causing thereby immense disruption to the children's education during all the destruction and construction work. No indication is offered on how the disruption will be managed, nor on how the provision of two new schools will be staged, nor on what kind of schools they will be. Such omissions alone abolish confidence in the proposals.

2000 additional houses are envisaged by the proposals, even though the most recent Strategic Land Availability Assessment from December 2023 notes there would be 'Significant negative effects on Biodiversity, Geology, Landscape, Water, and Historical Environment.' When recent world events insist we must become more self-sufficient, there would also be negative effects on the UK's food production and supply.

The proposals offer mitigations, but these are unconvincing. As if buses themselves are not vehicles, they are flourished as the solution to the greatly increased traffic volumes inevitably resulting from 2000 additional houses. Already, Whitstable Road has a frequent bus service into town, but our neighbours use their cars. Already the road has signs indicating danger. How much more dangerous it will be, if serving 2000 additional houses and needing new junctions to do so!

Presumably debt problems explain the university's willingness to sacrifice an area invaluable for the community's physical, psychological, and spiritual well-being.

Should there not rather be an enquiry into the cause of these problems, whether it be the government's policy towards overseas students, or the university's own expansionist profligacy, as evidenced in the extravagant new buildings in the woods immediately adjacent to the sports centre?

Certainly the university's here-today-and-gone-tomorrow management committee should not be aided by the city council in blighting the lives of its Canterbury citizens.

What but a blight on our existence would 2000 additional houses and the accompanying infrastructure be!

Yours sincerely

Stuart and Dorothy Hutchinson



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