

From: WVPS Mail [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 8:57 PM
To: [REDACTED] GALE, Roger [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECTION : Policy R5 - Bread & Cheese Field / Proposed development in Westbere, Canterbury, Kent

Dear Sir Roger,

I was pleased to see your recent correspondence with Rachel Carnac regarding the potential development of the Bread and Cheese Field between the villages of Westbere and Hersden (Policy R5 in the draft Local Plan). This was initially raised by my neighbour Mark Fowler, who eloquently set out many valid reasons why the Bread and Cheese Field should be retained as a green space and the never-ending development along the A28 halted.

I am writing to you representing the Westbere Village Preservation Society (WVPS). The society and residents of the village are extremely concerned about this potential development and the consequential loss of green space. The coalescence of the two settlements of Westbere and Hersden would affect their longstanding unique identities.

We believe that Canterbury City Council will argue that the development will not result in coalescence since they have inexplicably chosen to draw the settlement boundary of Westbere to exclude the houses that back on to the development site. By reducing the settlement, they can pretend that there would still be a gap between Westbere and Hersden should the development proceed. This is untrue and misleading as a majority of the dwellings in question (18 homes, in Bushy Hill Road, 15% of the residences of Westbere) have for many decades formed a continuous line of residential dwellings from the centre of the village up to the A28. The residents who pay their precept to the parish clearly see themselves as part of the settlement of Westbere. The Settlement boundary needs to be corrected to reflect these facts and to clearly show that any development on the Bread and Cheese Field would result in the merger of the two settlements. This is one of many reasons why the Bread and Cheese should be retained as a valued green space.

The Bread and Cheese Field has a unique charitable history with Westbere stretching back over 300 years. Our community values this land, evidenced by residents recently instigating a Parish Boundary Review to return the field to us through a petition to Canterbury City Council.

We are asking for your support in two ways. Firstly, objecting to this development being included as a Strategic Site in the Canterbury Draft Local Plan and secondly to amend this erroneous settlement boundary.

Yours Sincerely
Ian McLean
Chair – Westbere Village Preservation Society.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

