

R.A. Hoy

Email: [REDACTED]

22nd May 2024

Reference: Canterbury City Council Local Plan to 2040
Policy R7 – 300 homes on The Hill, Littlebourne
Policy R8 – 50 homes off Court Hill, Littlebourne

I wish to advise you of my great concerns regarding the above: Plans R7 and R8.

Firstly, the proposed site is on Grade 1 Agricultural land. Since we are no longer in the EU, surely we should be growing and providing our own food rather than importing from abroad. With the site being concreted over, and the addition of so many properties, there will be a huge increase in surface water and waste water, potentially causing flooding at the bottom end of the village.

Our sewage system is already inadequate. This very often results in the pumping of sewage into the Little Stour, which is one of only a very few chalk streams, causing increased pollution, and we have regularly had tankers having to suck up sewage to take to the waste water works, closing the road while this is carried out! We are constantly warned of the effects of global warming and a wetter climate in the future.

Although designated an 'A Road', the A257 is little wider than a country lane through the village and beyond, with the width constraining elements as you go up and down the hill, together with parked cars, where residents have nowhere else to park. At peak times when lorries and buses are passing through, there is often gridlock and I have regularly waited up to five minutes to exit my drive into the flow of traffic. Bokesbourne Lane is already a heavily congested 'rat run' for people going east towards Wingham, Ash and Sandwich, wanting to avoid Canterbury. Three hundred and fifty new homes would result in 400 plus extra vehicles! How will the roads cope with that extra volume?

There has not been much detail of immediate or impending infrastructure plans to accommodate this huge increase in population, traffic volume and pollution. What about school, GP surgery, where it's already difficult to get an appointment for up to a couple of weeks. Public transport, the environment, the inadequate and out of date sewage system? Very often these plans are somewhat vague and get delayed time and again and fail to materialise for ages, if at all. What with all the other developments along the A257 at the old barracks, BT depot and the St Martins Hospital pending, the infrastructure is unsustainable.

As a long term resident who has witnessed the transformation of Littlebourne over the years, it would be detrimental to the local area and have a severe consequences on the environment. I therefore respectfully ask you to take these comments into consideration.

Yours faithfully,

R.A. Hoy