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From: Afroditi Pina [REDACTED]
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I am responding as a resident of the Canterbury District and Rough Common.

My comments are in relation to Chapters 1, 2, 5 and 6 of the Draft Local Plan and in particular to policy C12 of Chapter 2.

I strongly disagree with the proposal to construct a new town of 2000 houses on prime agricultural land that is crucial for local biodiversity and borders ancient forests. The Council's actions contradict their own policies, hastily pushing forward a feeble case instead of seeking an exemption due to Canterbury's exceptional circumstances. Developments of such scale should prioritize the numerous brownfield sites before even considering paving over the countryside.

The areas of Blean, Tyler Hill, and the Sarre Penn Valley are renowned for their rich historical and cultural heritage, rendering them truly exceptional places. The Church of St Cosmus & St Damian, situated along the ancient Roman Salt Road, stands as a prominent local landmark. The Crab & Winkle Way, a nationally significant cycling route, consistently attracts tourists to this region.

Discoveries from archaeological digs uncovered implements employed by Mesolithic hunters, while a sequence of Bronze Age burial mounds resides in the field close to the church. Additionally, a vast medieval enclosure ditch, related to the neighbouring Blean Manor House, recorded in the Domesday Book, exists. Numerous heritage sites and conservation zones are located in and bordering the entire area slated for development. These are all safeguarded by National Planning Regulations. It is perplexing how the Council could even contemplate permitting building in this locale.

The tract designated as the principal gateway to the planned community currently serves as the location for the Kent Community Oasis Garden, the University's Astronomical Observatory, and newt-inhabited ponds. This area boasts a substantial concentration of Great Crested newts in Southern England, continuously monitored since 1994. The commencement of the development will result in their irreversible loss.

Not to mention the huge pressure in services that the additional 2000 homes will cause and the grave pollution, sound and air quality for all residents of Rough Common as the road will become a much busier one.

I do sincerely hope that the council will reconsider such a proposal and plan

Afroditi Pina

Sent from my iPhone