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From: Bob Eager [REDACTED]
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From: Robert Eager
[REDACTED]

I am responding to your request for comments, as a local resident and a frequent visitor to the designated area.

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 oppose the suggestion to construct a new town (because that is what it is) of 2000 residences on prime agricultural land that is vital for local biodiversity, as well as being an area that borders ancient forests. The Council's actions contradict their own policies, hastily pushing forward a flimsy case instead of seeking an exemption due to Canterbury's exceptional circumstances. Developments of such magnitude should prioritise the numerous available brownfield sites before even considering paving over the countryside.

Blean, Tyler Hill, the Sarre Penn Valley and their surroundings are steeped in history and heritage, rendering them truly remarkable places.

The Church of St Cosmus & St Damian, positioned along the ancient Roman Salt Road, stands as a prominent local landmark. The Crab & Winkle Way, a nationally significant cycling trail, consistently attracts tourists to this region.

Unearthed artifacts shed light on implements wielded by Mesolithic hunters, while a succession of Bronze Age burial mounds dot the field adjacent to the church. Moreover, a colossal medieval enclosure ditch, linked to the neighbouring Blean Manor House, referenced in the Domesday Book, exists. Numerous heritage sites and conservation zones encompass and border the entire development area. These are safeguarded by National Planning Regulations. It is puzzling how the Council could even ponder permitting construction in this locale.

The designated primary access point to the proposed community currently encompasses the Kent Community Oasis Garden, the University's Astronomical Observatory, and newt-inhabited ponds. This area supports one of the largest concentrations of Great Crested newts in Southern England, continuously monitored since 1994. These newts face permanent eradication upon the development's initiation.

To reiterate, I strongly object to this proposal.

Eur Ing Robert D Eager CEng FBCS CIPM MIET