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From: tina atchison-thomas [REDACTED]
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Policy C12

I oppose the proposed development of 2,000 houses, shops, and offices in the unspoiled countryside between Blean, Tyler Hill, and Rough Common. This development shows no respect for the local communities, heritage, or natural habitats of wildlife.

The Blean is an area of rich ancient woodlands, heritage sites, and the Sarre Penn Valley, including Tyler Hill, Blean, and Rough Common. This proposed development between East Blean Woods National Nature Reserve and RSPB Blean Woods would destroy the wildlife corridor between these unique habitats. More than half of the area is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and around a third is a Special Area of Conservation.

The Blean wildlife is diverse. A variety of species live in the area, including the endangered heath fritillary butterfly. This species requires sunlit vegetation and wide rides for proper breeding. The highest counts were at the RSPB Blean Woods reserve. This is confirmed to be the largest colony in the UK. Other fritillary species have also been recorded in the Blean. Ancient woodlands also support a diversity of birdlife. It's important to connect the woodland and protect the existing wildlife, not destroy it.

As part of the Wilder Blean project, the presence of bison at the Blean, alongside Exmoor ponies and Iron-Age pigs, will transform the woods into a lush, thriving, biodiverse environment.

The University of Kent site has been included in the Local Plan based on the new Bus-first transport strategy. Unfortunately, many people will still use their cars. Rough Common Road would need to be turned into a trunk road to accommodate the construction vehicles. Traffic going into Canterbury will become even more congested, and the air quality will be affected.

Many local families walk or cycle their children to Blean Primary School and The Oaks Nursery. They would be less likely to use the road if Rough Common Road was turned into a trunk road, removing a sustainable way of getting around and discouraging these environmentally friendly modes of transportation.

In conclusion, I strongly oppose the proposal of 2,000 houses, shops, and offices in the unspoiled countryside between Blean, Tyler Hill, and Rough Common. This proposal lacks proper consideration for the environment and the local community.

What are the potential alternatives to the proposed development that would still meet the housing and commercial needs of the area while preserving the natural environment?

Yours Sincerely

Tina Atchison-Thomas
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