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From: Iuliana Petcu [REDACTED]
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I am responding as a frequent visitor to the Canterbury District.

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.

The proposal to build a new town of 2000 houses on prime agricultural land, crucial for local biodiversity and bordering ancient forests, is fundamentally unacceptable to me. The Council's actions defy their own policies, rashly advancing a weak case rather than seeking an exemption due to Canterbury's unique circumstances. Large-scale developments should utilize the many available brownfield sites before contemplating the destruction of the countryside.

Blean, Tyler Hill, and the Sarre Penn Valley are places of immense historical and cultural value, making them truly remarkable. The Church of St Cosmus & St Damian, located on the ancient Roman Salt Road, serves as a notable local landmark. The Crab & Winkle Way, a cycling route of national renown, regularly draws visitors to explore these areas.

Archaeological findings unveiled tools used by Mesolithic hunters, and a series of Bronze Age burial mounds lie in the field close to the church. Furthermore, a massive medieval enclosure ditch, connected to the adjacent Blean Manor House, which is mentioned in the Domesday Book, is present. Multiple heritage sites and conservation areas are situated in and adjoining the whole area for development. These are all protected by National Planning Laws. It is perplexing how the Council could even consider allowing construction in this region.

The territory marked as the principal gateway to the planned community presently accommodates the Kent Community Oasis Garden, the University's Observatory for Astronomical studies, and ponds harbouring newts. This region boasts one of the largest populations of Great Crested newts in the South of England, under continuous observation since 1994. Their permanent loss is inevitable upon the development's initiation.

Many thanks .

Warm regards
Iuliana Petcu

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