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From: Rosalind Dunn [REDACTED]
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Rosalind Dunn - [REDACTED]

I am a resident of Westbere and am writing to make objections to the settlement boundaries for Westbere and Hersden as currently drawn and the inclusion of the Bread and Cheese Field as a proposed site for development (Policy R5 - Bread and Cheese Field) in the draft Local Plan 2040.

Settlement Boundaries for Westbere and Hersden

I am a resident of Bushy Hill Road and see that my house (along with the majority of others on the road) are currently excluded from the settlement of Westbere with the currently drawn settlement boundary for Westbere.

This is an incorrect drawing of the settlement boundary delineating the settlement of Westbere (by the Council's own methodology as set out in the **Canterbury District Local Plan Development Topic Paper, Section 5**), as the houses on Bushy Hill Road form a continuous line of residential dwellings coming up from the centre of the village towards the A28.

All these houses should be included within the settlement of Westbere, along with their back gardens and land (including the land owned by Number 7 Bushy Road at the rear of their house).

A correctly drawn settlement boundary for Westbere would clearly demonstrate that any development of the Bread and Cheese Field would result in the coalescence of Westbere and Hersden. Therefore the settlement boundary for Hersden should be moved to the eastern side of the Bread and Cheese Field (running down the access road to the sewage works and RSPCA centre), and the Bread and Cheese Field designated as a Green Gap between the settlements of Westbere and Hersden.

Objections to the Inclusion of Policy R5 – Bread and Cheese Field

- **Coalescence of Westbere and Hersden** - Any development on the Bread and Cheese Field will merge Westbere and Hersden by removing the green space between the two settlements that the Bread and Cheese Field provides (see comments on currently drawn settlement boundaries above). This will compromise the individual and unique identities of Westbere and Hersden, and result in continuous ribbon development along the south side of the A28.
- **Unnecessary Development** - According to a recent report produced by ACRA, (Alliance of Canterbury Residents' Association) Canterbury City Council has grossly over-stated the population growth for the area and, therefore, the demand for houses. The Field is not needed as a development site, especially considering the substantial developments already approved in and around Hersden.
- **Impact on local nature** – A lot of the green space around Hersden has already been built upon and adding to this will have a further negative impact on local wildlife. The Bread and Cheese Field, along with the ancient woodland and hedgerows, provide a vital source of bio-diversity and supports a wide range of wildlife (including kestrels, buzzards, foxes, swallows and bats that have been sighted hunting on or above the Field). This will largely disappear with any development. The Bread and Cheese Field should be designated as Green Gap and left as a valuable undeveloped space for biodiversity and the local wildlife.
- **Local Infrastructure** - Current infrastructure in the area, such as local shops, Doctors, Dentists as well as the lack of work opportunities are inadequate for the existing population, let alone the inhabitants of another 150 homes relying on these already overstretched local services.
- **Road and Pedestrian Safety** - The A28 has got busier with recent housing developments and an increased local population. A local Sturry resident (an elderly gentlemen) recently got knocked down

and killed trying to cross the road in Sturry. This is a major problem. There are also safety issues when pulling out of Westbere to join the A28 and this will be exacerbated with any development of the Bread and Cheese Field, with the residential housing development site entrance right next to Bushy Hill Road. The A28 cannot keep supporting the increase in traffic that new development creates.

- **Historical Significance** - The Field is of significant historic importance to the village of Westbere, with a charitable history that can be traced back over 300 years, and is still continuing today (see Community Governance Review – Westbere and Hersden parish boundary).