

Alexander Gunyon

From: William Wollen [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 May 2024 11:08
To: Consultations
Subject: Comment on Canterbury City Council Draft Local Plan 2040

Categories: Blue category

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To whom it may concern

Name: William Wollen

Address: [REDACTED]

I am responding as a former resident, now 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 idea of building a 2000-home town on prime agricultural land, vital for local biodiversity and adjacent to 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 regions rich in history and heritage, making them truly special places. The Church of St Cosmus & St Damian, located on the former Roman Salt Road, serves as a notable local landmark. The Crab & Winkle Way, a cycling trail of national importance, regularly draws visitors to explore these areas.

Archaeological excavations revealed tools utilized by Mesolithic hunters, and a series of Bronze Age burial mounds lie within the field near the church. Furthermore, a massive medieval enclosure ditch, associated with the adjacent Blean Manor House, mentioned in the Domesday Book, is present. Multiple heritage sites and conservation areas are situated in and adjoining the whole area earmarked for development. These are all protected by National Planning Laws. It is puzzling how the Council could even consider allowing construction in this region.

The parcel earmarked as the primary entrance to the envisioned community presently serves as the location for the Kent Community Oasis Garden, the University's Observatory for Astronomy, and ponds where newts reside. This region supports one of the densest populations of Great Crested newts in the South of England, under continuous study since 1994. Their existence faces permanent extinguishment once the development project begins.

Thank you for giving my remarks due consideration,

Yours,

William Wollen

Sent from my telephone with thumbsy clumbs