

Alexander Gunyon

From: David Weston [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 June 2024 12:17
To: Consultations
Subject: OBJECTION TO CHAPTER 2, POLICY 12 OF CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL'S NEW DRAFT LOCAL PLAN - UNI OF KENT DEVELOPMENT

Categories: Blue category

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Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing to you to express my objections to the proposed 2000 new houses in the Blean area of Canterbury in the City Council's new draft Local Plan (University of Kent development).

As a resident of Rough Common for nearly 20 years I feel I am well qualified to discuss the likely detrimental effect this will have on everyone who lives in the villages of Blean, Tyler Hill and Rough Common.

The effect of up to 2000 new houses in this area will be catastrophic on so many levels but none more so than on the huge increase in traffic and air pollution. The existing Rough Common Road and the Whitstable Road are already busy thoroughfares but to add the cars of the new residents to this would cause unimaginable levels of traffic congestion and pollution.

As a keen walker, runner and cyclist I make good use of everything our wonderful Blean has to offer and generally enjoy our beautiful open spaces. My family and I regularly walk, run and cycle on the historic Crab and Winkle Path and we often do the Canterbury Park Run which is based there. The proposed new development would directly impact on this historic route and would prevent the Park Run from continuing.

The proposed development site is in the middle of the Blean Woods which is shocking to contemplate. How can housing be proposed to the detriment of this area of natural outstanding beauty? There are numerous rare and endangered species living in these woods such as the Heath Fritillary Butterfly - surely there must be better options than threatening our local wildlife's very existence?

The new development would change the character of this part of Canterbury forever and would put horrendous additional pressure on already stretched public services, schools and hospitals. I understand that Blean Primary School, one of the best schools in Canterbury, would have to close and re-locate. I appreciate we are not losing the school but such a drastic change could completely destroy the unique character and fabric of the school.

Flooding has become an increasing problem in recent years with the adverse effects of climate change and I believe 2000 new houses in the area will automatically and directly increase the risk of surface flooding.

I appreciate there is a huge shortage of affordable housing in the district and that Canterbury City Council is obliged to hit national building quotas and targets but I vehemently object to Blean being the solution. I also object to the likelihood that much of the social housing numbers will be made up by people from London boroughs and not local people who should be the primary concern of the council. Integrating the

needs of local people struggling to get on the housing ladder would be far easier and more palatable than trying to assimilate the multi-cultural needs of people from the London boroughs. Each of the three villages directly affected by this proposed development have their own unique characteristics and charm - this could be forever threatened by the likely influx of people from outside the community.

I sincerely hope that common sense will eventually prevail and that this proposed development will be rejected. The depth of feeling about this issue in these villages is unprecedented and Canterbury City Council have a duty of care to listen to our concerns.

Yours faithfully

David Weston

