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From: Phil Irwin [REDACTED]
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District Resident

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.

I strongly object to the Plan regarding the building of a new town with 2000 dwellings on prime agricultural land that is crucial for local biodiversity and shares an eco-habitat with ancient forests of outstanding natural relevance. Brownfield sites in the District should be accorded precedence for developments of this magnitude before any consideration is given to paving over the countryside.

Where that is not achievable on a large scale, the Council should urgently seek an exemption from housebuilding targets set by the Central Government, based on the district's exceptional wealth of rich natural assets and heritage of ecological importance. In precipitously and hurriedly advancing the C12 proposal, the Council is flouting their own policies by impulsively pushing forward a weak and inadequate case in a manner that suggests it has been hastened through with insufficient preparation.

The increase in pollution from vehicles using the new roads being contemplated could have long-term health effects on residents, and the road could disrupt ecosystem services like air purification and carbon sequestration.

The community's identity is tied to the presence of rare species like nightingale and their habitats.

Urban development would disrupt this sense of place and would rob the area of much of its appeal as an unspoilt haven for wildlife.

The new town will further increase the impermeability of superficial layers over the London Clay hillside, leading to water overflow and ecological risks for the area.

Altering narrow Rough Common Road for large construction lorries and heavy new commuter traffic from the new development would burden homes along this weight-limited secondary road with disruption, hazards, and potential structural harm.

Regarding Blean School, as I teacher myself I know that any move will be very disruptive even if temporary over the transition period and it is often accompanied by a misallocation of resources, with temporary solutions taking precedence over long-term educational investments.