Where the new housing development is proposed is between three distinct small rural villages. It would infill between them and join them to Canterbury itself. We should be protecting the individuality of each of the three villages of Rough Common, Blean and Tyler Hill.

2,000 homes would probably mean at least 4,000 cars. Most of these would be used in the rush hour to take children to school and to travel to work. The roads around Rough Common, Blean and Tyler Hill are already full of traffic and having problems. The traffic problems would spread down the Whitstable Road into St. Dunstan’s and the Ring Road into central Canterbury. The health of existing residents would be adversely affected with more traffic, increased air pollution and more accidents are likely to happen with busier roads. Bus services cannot be relied upon and won’t be routinely used (the bus through Rough Common no longer exists). Cycling would not be used as a general rule as it is very dangerous for cyclists on the roads, and the roads are not flat. Rough Common is a small village and ‘upgrading’ it would be dangerous for residents and spoil the village feel. The access roads marked are not suitable for so much traffic. One would spoil the ancient Crab and Winkle Way and exit opposite a school. The other is where Blean Primary School currently is, which is already a dangerous spot on the brow of a hill.

The area of land for the proposed building is on prime farm land, woods, streams and countryside. It would surround the ancient church of St. Cosmos and St. Damian. It is in the centre of the Blean Woods area. There is a tremendous amount of wildlife on this land, including skylarks, adders, nightingales, bats, and golden plovers which are protected. I am sure experts know the full extent of the birds, mammals, insects and plant life which make this area their home. We should not be destroying it. It would become a conurbation of Canterbury, rather than a piece of very important countryside, not only for what lives there, but for the villages of Tyler Hill, Blean and Rough Common which surround it. We should be keeping all areas of farmland for food security. With houses built on London Clay it is likely to cause flooding. Keeping this area of land as it is with a combination of farmland, woodland, streams, and countryside would help limit the effects of flooding. There are problems with building causing pollution at Stodmarsh Nature Reserve which should be avoided at all costs.

There are several heritage assets in this area. Not only the church of St. Cosmos and St. Damian, but also the remains of a Roman Villa and of Mediaeval Tile Kilns which are both scheduled monuments, as well as multiple Listed Buildings and multiple Conservation Areas. These should not be destroyed by housing.

The University of Kent was given this land for the purpose of education. If they need to find money to pay their debts they should find another way. Could they find space to build more student accommodation on the land presently built on? This would increase their revenue every year and vacate properties in central Canterbury for local permanent residents to live in. The University should not be allowed to destroy this special land just because they have got into debt.