**POLICY R7**

1. **LOSS OF GRADE 1 LAND** This land is fine Grade 1 farming land which is outside the envelope of the existing settlement – separated from the main services of the villages by the A257 trunk road. Permanent loss of Grade 1 farming land – as the Council well knows – is rural vandalism. It is a beautiful swathe of fine agricultural land which apparently needs to be protected from the Council as well as developers. It adjoins the Wildlife Park – which is a **significant attraction** to the area for visitors. The proposed measures to protect the landscape are vague in the extreme – and experience suggest that they will be ignored.

**2. EXCESSIVE URBANISATION.** Taken with R8 and the substantial development now reaching completion, Littlebourne is subject to excessive urbanisation which is not appropriate. **Littlebourne is a village – not a suburb of Canterbury.**

3. **COHERENT INFRASTRUCTURE**. The proposed development worsens an already inadequate local infrastructure with which the current community struggles – such as congested roads, poor access to Canterbury and the A2, and tankered sewage now a permanent feature. Littlebourne is already suffering from an inadequate infrastructure

**4. SERVICES.** The services of the village (School, shop, church, surgery) are ALL on the opposite side of the A257.

5. **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.** The proposed development will not improve employment opportunities in the local community – it will simply become a dormitory for those working elsewhere. Separated by the A257, it is a pipe-dream to see it as part of a developing community.

**6. TRAFFIC.** The draft plan seems to be unaware of the current state of traffic around Littlebourne – which has grown increasingly difficult. As you must know, as the village is now a crossroads for a rat-run through to the A2 down Bekesbourne Lane. Travel to Canterbury itself has worsened appreciably in recent years.

a. The A257 is a very constricted A road – going through built-up areas, quite narrow and bending and, in the case of Littlebourne itself, quite dangerous for pedestrians.

b. The Hill and Bekesbourne Lane are already over-burdened – Bekesbourne Lane being turned into a rat-run by the lack of alternative routes round Canterbury.

c. Parts of Littlebourne, such as Jubilee Rd and Nargate St are congested with parked cars as is Church Rd, because of the school. All this makes navigation of the village by lorries exceedingly difficult. The Local Plan proposals will make this situation worse.

c. The changes in the City itself – with the A257 now being subject to 4 different speed limits before it grinds to a halt where the 20 mph limit starts. The proposal will exacerbate the situation.

**7. WATER and DRAINAGE.** There is an existing and significant problem with the management of wastewater (sewage) both in Littlebourne and the villages along the Bekesbourne Lane – requiring regular tankering of waste. A substantial infrastructure investment is already required to address that problem - without any further development. The **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT** is also significant – e.g. in respect of the Little Stour – a chalk stream.