



CCC Consultations <consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

objection to Canterbury local plan

1 message

Jo Blackman

9 January 2023 at 19:00

To: "consultations@canterbury.gov.uk" <consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

Objection to policy R1 and Policy R2, Policy R20 and Policy R22.

I live in Adisham because I want to be surrounded by the peaceful rural countryside with a real sense of community. If Adisham was made 1600% bigger with 3200 homes, we would lose the community feel. We are lucky to have regular events such as curry nights, sunflower growing competitions, Christmas window displays and scarecrow trails. All things that are manageable to organise in a small community. If Adisham was made bigger these things would not be able to continue. It wouldn't be fair to only run events for 'old Adisham' it would probably be seen as discrimination. We would simply lose the events and our village identity.

My dad, for many years on Christmas morning, has driven a vintage tractor around the village delivering presents to the children. It would be really sad to lose this, they couldn't get round any more houses in the few hours they give up out of their day.

The train is not reliable enough to build a whole new settlement for. It barely runs on the bad snowy and icy days, leaving school kids stranded here or in Canterbury, its regularly late or cancelled. You cannot live in a rural area and rely on public transport; most people would still need and want a car. Our nearest supermarkets are around 20 minutes away, you cannot carry a week's shop on a train. I know people that live withing walking distance of shops, restaurants and activities but have cars to visit other areas, just because they are on your doorstep does not mean it's where you will go.

3200 homes would mean over six thousand more cars on local roads. They will not only use the larger roads; they flood onto smaller rural roads. Many small villages become rat runs; we have noticed the increased number of cars coming through Adisham village since Aylesham's last expansion. The railway bridge that you have to drive under to enter the south side of the village is very narrow, wide enough for 2 cars to pass but it's also on a bend so you don't know if a lorry or tractor might be coming towards you. There must be a lot of near misses as many vehicles beep on that stretch of road.

I'd say over half the cars coming from the Aylesham side of the village drive straight through, not coming this way to stop in the village.

If there is a crash between Wingham and the Adisham turn off of the B2046 (It's a regular occurrence when there's ice, fog or snow) traffic diverts through Bramling and Adisham, If there's a crash from The Aylesham turn off the other way (towards the A2) all traffic comes through Adisham to get back to the A2. Adisham doesn't get gritted, the downs road is very dangerous, and people drive too fast as they have come off of gritted 'B' roads.

Since the thousands of new houses were built in Aylesham in the past 5 years there has been no extra doctors etc. Many people use surgeries outside of their village meaning the doctor I've been registered with since childhood is overwhelmed and getting an appointment is not easy.

Many Adisham residents have been here for generations, I myself have been in the village for over 20 years, the new development would be seen from so many homes here, you can call it a green

buffer or an open space, but it won't hide 3200 buildings! I don't want to see it from my house.

I'm currently spending thousands on an extension with 3-meter-wide doors and windows to take in the view we love so much. I'd be heartbroken to not wake up to farmed fields full of wildlife.

Adisham is a historic environment lucky to have ancient woodlands, AONB and SSSI's and a lot of ancient buildings including a 12th century church. New housing would be so out of character to the existing village. There could be potentially thousands of people stomping through Adisham woods that could have a devastating effect on the environment.

We have had problems with flooding this year. We looked at the flood zone maps and realised why we flood. The water runs across the field straight across the road into our garden. After a dry few weeks this summer a sudden downpour meant the drains couldn't cope, the pavement was inaccessible for people coming from the train station, the water level rose close to the dampcourse. It got quite worrying. Highways came out and put down sandbags at the gate, but it then poured through the fence. With climate change growing more of a concern I think it will happen more regularly. I've added photos to show my garden this autumn.

I worry for our Victorian school, with brand new schools being built along with the houses the future of our current school could be at risk. I'm also aware that schools are having difficulty with staffing levels. Building a shell of a school doesn't make it a school ready to be filled with children.

There are currently less than 300 houses in Adisham. In the 20 years I've lived here there have been 26 new homes built within the village, in my opinion this is manageable expansion in a small village.

I don't believe prime agricultural land is the right place to build houses, the family that farm the land has done so for generations with the next generation in line to carry on. It will be changed forever; you can build houses because "People want to live in Kent" BUT you can't build a new field when you realise you've run out of space to grow crops. Also the land owner has on many occasions has stated THE LAND IS NOT FOR SALE.

In your assessment, for every parcel of land you have noted that there is a hospital within a 5-minute drive. Kent & Canterbury hospital is around a 20-minute drive but doesn't have an urgent treatment centre any longer. We now have to travel to Ashford or Margate which are around 40-minute journeys.

Adisham is a low crime area, villages generally are. We worry that people moving in from towns and cities will make crime figures rise.

Jo Blackman
Adisham Resident.

1/12/23, 10:17 AM

EKS Partnership Mail - objection to Canterbury local plan

