

Remove the R1 New Town proposal in its entirety from the Canterbury District Plan

The plan to develop the small village of Adisham to a “New Town” is ill considered and will have a significant detrimental effect on the quality of lives of residents and a fatal impact on wildlife and vegetation which currently enjoy protection under the SSSI but will either be concreted over or at the very least be adversely impacted by the impact of being bordered by housing developments.

The impact on the environment

Adisham is a village surrounded by arable fields and pastures used by cows. Its current landscape supports wildlife and encourages the habitation of rare species in the SSSI woods. This quiet, tranquil unspoilt land protects the rare species which are unique to this part of Kent.

The destruction of such productive land for the food chain, at a time of national recession when Britain has a political agenda to become less reliant on imports and be more self-sufficient makes no sense. The land is, and will continue to be, sustainable farming land.

The disruption that will be caused to the tranquillity of the area and quality of air will have an adverse impact on wildlife, with wildlife homes destroyed, wildlife killed and wildlife discouraged to remain in the area and surrounds.

Adisham is not a town and the proposal looks to increase its housing by almost ten times the amount. There will be increased cars on the road after building is completed, there will be increased humans walking through the SSSI woodland which will inevitably lead to further destruction and death for wildlife and vegetation which has had minimal impact from human activity thus far.

In other developments we have seen that there are insufficient resources and services to manage the increase in demand for effective sewage systems, there will be increased demand on landfill sites and this development will be no exception. There is not the infrastructure to support such a proposal. There is a concern that this development will cause flooding on lower land, i.e. the existing village of Adisham, as natural soil drainage is lost, as increased water demands are made and increased demand in sewage removal.

In an area so heavily mined can we be confident that the mineshafts that litter the land, hidden below will withstand such soil disruption and weight from such a development as this has always been a land search consideration when I purchased the two houses I owned in Adisham. Or is the historic use of this land both above and below to be entirely ignored?

Just stop a minute and reflect; ten times the size, ten times the humans, at least ten times and the number of cars. There is no way that wildlife and vegetation will not be adversely impacted, aside from the obvious that huge areas of farmland will be gone forever.

The impact on villagers

Adisham is a village which attracts people because of its size and surroundings. It is distinct from Aylesham and has history as a farming community and not as a mining community as is the heritage of Aylesham. The two communities are proud of their differences and there is no desire to merge as this proposal forces. Both villages have cultures they are proud of. One example is that different vocabulary is used in Aylesham because it was built on a more cultural diverse population than Adisham and this should be respected and not eroded.

There will be increased light and noise pollution for the current residents of Adisham, their quality of life will be impacted.

Crime rates are extremely low in Adisham but we have seen from other developments, Aylesham being a prime example, that crime has increased. London boroughs are purchasing high numbers of housing in such developments and they are housing families in need of many services. This has increased demand on police, social services, education and health when these services are already stretched in this area. Increased crime rates, anti-social behaviour incidents, lack of services will result in Adisham no longer remaining a comparatively safe and crime free place to reside.

The roads into Adisham are already over used. On recent years the cars in the roads around Adisham have significantly increased with the developments that have already taken place in Aylesham. The Downs Road is seen as a rat run, with car drivers often exceeding safe speeds. The country highway code is often ignored and this places walkers, horse riders and other users at increased risk of accidents. This will only increase with ten times the amount of housing, with people potentially moving from towns such as London who are unfamiliar with safe country driving. There is not the highway infrastructure to support this proposal.

There is simply not a housing demand from local residents for this development. As stated I am quite sure the London boroughs will welcome this proposal with open arms to enable them to move families out of their boroughs and reduce the pressure on their services. At what cost does this development come? More people means more cars on the road, more crime, increased pressure on services and a destruction of the heritage of Adisham.

To live in Adisham is to live in a village. There is no inhabitant that chose to live in this village who wants to live in a town or they would have moved. This proposal needs to be removed from the District Plan.

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