

Comments on Draft Local Plan.

Traffic Maypole Road and through Hoath and Policy DS15

As a matter of great urgency I would like to bring to your attention the traffic conditions along the Maypole Road and through Hoath Village, which are as a result of tankers travelling thorough from the various Farm Energy depots.

I understand from our District Councillor Rachel Carnac and the Parish Council that this huge disruption and danger could be controlled via the Local Plan, using policy DS15, and would urge you to include measures to control speed and usage.

At present we are suffering these huge tankers travelling to and from the digestive pit at Chislet Forstal, extended without planning permission. A retrospective application for the increased size of the pit has been submitted, but when it came to the City Council the Councillors wished to make a site visit, which has not yet happened. The Farm Energy representative told all at the meeting that whatever the outcome, they would go ahead, whether with the one pit or with many smaller ones on the same site, which she said they could do without any permission.

Meanwhile the usage at the pit which does not have permission for extension has increased dramatically. These tankers are going along the Maypole Road and through the centre of Hoath approximately every 20 minutes. The Maypole Road has been deeply rutted either side, and also has huge potholes. The damage is accelerating daily. Many people have reported being run off the road, and suffered damage to cars. These vehicles often travel at high speed, and do not have number plates, which although many have been photographed makes police reporting difficult.

It is also becoming impossible and dangerous for walkers and horses due to the size of the ruts. Because of this and the narrow country road it is impossible for the tankers to keep the legally proscribed 1 metre distance from walkers bikes and horses. This run is between two federated primary schools.

We therefore desperately need your protection. Our Canterbury City Councillor has said it would be possible to put speed restrictions and traffic calming on the Maypole Road, and have the need for this listed on the Local Plan. I would certainly be very pleased to see this, both to control these huge tankers and also the additional traffic that will be generated by the new building beyond Reculver at Beltinge.

Land behind Church Farm listed on Local Plan SLAA202.

I object to the inclusion of this site on the local plan.

- 1) The size proposed is inappropriate for the centre of Hoath, which already has several new housing developments to assimilate.
- 2) It would infill between The Centre of Hoath and the hamlet of Maypole, destroying the unique character of this area, which is hamlets around a centre, with green spaces between.
- 3) Although a village school and playgroup are listed as local facilities, both have a very limited number of places. As proximity is a main criteria for admissions to both, a new estate here could

force people from outlying hamlets, just a short walk away, out of the village school, with the consequent impact on the inadequate narrow local roads and the environment.

4) As there isn't a local bus route anymore, the new residents would be forced to use cars to commute to Canterbury, Herne Bay or further, with a consequent increase in pollution and use of already overcrowded narrow roads in an increasingly poor state of repair.

5) High grade agricultural land should not be used for development.

Land behind Marley Lane to be used as Solar Farm SLAA280

I object to the inclusion of this site on the District Plan.

It is an enormous (101 hectare) Solar Energy Farm between Hoath and Chislet, which is much too large to put between two rural villages.

Much of this site is high grade farmland, which should be used for the production of food.

There is a great deal of unique animal and plant life on the site, which has been recorded, particularly due to its proximity to the various protected inland areas such as those with special landscape interest special Scientific Interest and the Blean Forest , and also the coastal areas having special protection for migrating species.

This site plan goes right up to peoples' boundary fences, which will cause an unacceptable level of noise pollution (the electrical storage emits a continuous hum and the panels are also noisy when they change direction. The loss of amenity for residents is unacceptable.

The large buildings housing the battery storage are unacceptable in this scenic rural area.

There are a number of public right of way over this proposed site, which are very pleasant to walk at present, with long reaching views over the rural landscape. If a Solar Farm is built, this will be destroyed, as security measures including high fencing will need to be put in place along the public rights of way. Residents were told this during the initial zoom consultation meeting.

Recently various hedgerows within the proposed area have received a severe pruning causing death, while not actually being grubbed out. Canterbury City Council are supposed to have policies in place to protect ancient hedgerows.

I must stress that I do not object to solar power generally, but do feel that there are plenty of sites which do not adjoin villages or threaten our rural environment or public rights of way. I live the other side of Hoath, so am not occupying one of the houses directly affected, but I do walk this area regularly.

Internet in Hoath

It is stated in the Supporting Rural Communities Section that all properties in Hoath except a very few properties on Marley Lane have access to superfast broadband, giving a false score of 10 for the area. At Maypole we have been to the Ombudsman in order to try and get High Speed Broad Band. which is not possible at the moment. The overhead cables mean the Broadband, like our electricity supply, can be quite variable.