Proposed residential development at Chartham Mill

From Rollo Parsons ███████████████

Date Thu 10/16/2025 8:59 PM

To Consultations <Consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

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Dear Sir / Madam,

I write as a member of the Stour Fishing and Conservation association. I am much concerned by the possibility of residential development in the area. Assuming that there is little that can be done to stop such development, I feel impelled to ask you to ensure that if we must have this development, it is done in such a way as to use to its very fullest this opportunity to improve and sustain our river for immediate and successive generations of local inhabitants.

Our poor Great Stour is a river that has suffered insensitive manipulation at the hands of various parties throughout history, but most egregiously so in the last century and a half. This has included the installation of unnatural and unsightly barriers along the river for the purposes of industry, housing and transport. This has included the construction of weirs, mills, and the artificial straightening of the river when building the railway and road.

These barriers significantly impair the river's natural ability to cope with pollution, drought and abstraction. They inhibit the movement of native fish and other wildlife. The natural flow of the river is being lost forever. You, the council, have it within your authority to ensure that the removal of obstructions to aid the naturalisation of what is one of Kent's greatest assets (one of only 200 chalk streams of its type in the world) is built into the requirements of any developers. At the stroke of your pen you have it within your power to secure the future of this most lovely river, indeed, to the great benefit of all who depend on the river.

Please take advantage of this opportunity for improvement of our natural resources, which can be done at no cost to the public.

Yours faithfully
Rollo Parsons
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