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Dear Canterbury Local planning team,

Whilst accepting that there is a need for more homes to be built, the local planning consultation regarding housing development at the Chartham Mill site, needs careful consideration as to the implications of the proposal for the health of the river Stour, one of only about 200 chalk streams in the world.

- Any design needs to consider the potential risk for flooding and how this might affect the water quality and biodiversity of the Stour. Additional water extraction would degrade the health of the river too.
- The Stour supports an important population of flora and fauna, together with both migratory and non migratory fish which require access to spawning grounds upstream. Their access may be compromised by weirs and culverts and even more so, when river levels are very low, a regular yearly occurrence now, aggravated further by increased extraction.
- The most recent Environment act should provide an opportunity via the planning process to ensure significant developer contribution to river improvement. This might include removing all man made structures in the river at the Mill improving access for migratory fish and overall river health. Making sure that sewage effluent from the proposed development is prevented from being discharged into the river is clearly paramount.

Please consider the future of the Kentish Stour and how it might be enhanced, when considering and housing development proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Dr A. Frank Muller
Local Resident