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To: Consultations; [REDACTED]
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Subject: Canterbury District Local Plan - Rattington Street Feedback

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To whom it may concern,

Please consider the following feedback on the proposed Policy N32 LAND AT RATTINGTON STREET - CHARTHAM:

I am writing as a long-time resident of Chartham who is deeply concerned about the proposed housing development at Rattington Street (N32). This is a small, historic village with limited facilities, and building another 170 homes here would fundamentally change its nature and overwhelm our already struggling infrastructure.

I am not against all development. In fact, many residents support the idea of restoring the old Paper Mill (N31) site into something that benefits the community—a small commercial hub, local services, or even light business units that could provide jobs and life back into what has become an eyesore. But more large-scale housing in the heart of the countryside is not what Chartham needs.

Rattington Street is a narrow country lane—no pavements, no lighting, sharp bends, and single-track sections over bridges. It's already dangerous to walk along, and at school drop-off times Shalmsford Street becomes gridlocked, with cars mounting pavements just to squeeze past each other. Adding hundreds of new vehicles from N32 would make it unsafe for children walking to school or residents going to the shops.

Doctor's appointments are already hard to come by, and our local primary school is often full. There's no secondary school in the village, and the bus service is patchy at best—there's none on Sundays and it stops at 6pm in the evening. Apart from making these amenities far more overstretched than they are already, this will also mean every new household will rely on cars for almost everything. The extra traffic, fumes, and noise would make daily life worse for everyone and damage air quality near the school.

And finally, it's heartbreaking to think of losing the open fields, wildlife, and beautiful countryside views that make Chartham so special. The ancient woodland and green corridors are home to owls, bats, badgers, and many bird species. Once this is built over, it's gone forever.

Please, let's invest in restoring what's broken, not in destroying what's working. Develop the Paper Mill into something positive for the community—shops, workshops, maybe even a café or community space—but say no to N32. Chartham is a village, let's please keep it that way.

Kind regards,
Kate Hovelmeier

