

I believe that Section R1 Land at Cooting Garden Farm should be entirely removed from the Local Development Plan.

Adisham has a long history as a small closely knit village, stretching along the street from the church with outlying hamlets at Blooden, Cooting and Bossington. Despite being in the busy southeast of England it is a quiet rural place. The building of 3200 houses at Cooting would completely destroy its peaceful character and would join it to its much bigger neighbour, Aylesham.

The village is part of a unique chalk downland landscape. The ancient church and homes are tucked into a fold of the downs – from the B2046 they are barely visible as one looks across the sweep of the downs towards Whitstable and the sea. This unique siting and vista, marking where the North Downs rise, would be utterly and permanently destroyed by the proposed development which would be immediately visible from the road and would clutter the view across the downs with housing.

The environmental damage caused by this development would be devastating. Most of the farmland is already farmed under a higher level environmental scheme. Farmers will continue to be encouraged to farm in this way in the future, so where exactly will the proposed 20% net biodiversity gain come from if our local farmland is built on? We are already surrounded by beautiful countryside, why do we need 'country park' areas?! A 'country park' next to 3,200 houses would be no more than a dog walking area! Our beautiful rural environment of trees, hedges woodlands and fields will be replaced by acres of housing with our trees marginalised, fields built over and hedgerows no longer green wildlife corridors. There are twelve areas of nationally registered ancient woodland within the parish, five of which are SSSI. They would be visited by the many people living in 3,200 new houses who would inevitably walk dogs and disturb the fragile and unique species that live there. Our farmland is not only necessary environmentally, but for the future of UK food security.

Part of Adisham's unique character is the lack of traffic. Families walk up and down The Street to the village school and back and the lack of pavements does not matter. An extra 3,200 houses nearby would mean thousands of extra cars on roads serving the new development. The B2046 is already dangerous and overcrowded yet Canterbury City Council is proposing to add 420 houses in Womenswold and there are 640 more proposed for Aylesham in the Dover Plan. The main road infrastructure is completely inadequate for this huge increase in traffic. Woodlands Road which leads to the A2 and Barham at the south east end of the village is mainly single carriageway and would become choked, as would the Adisham Downs road. The 'active travel' corridors shown on the plan are neither realistic nor convincing.

If two new primary schools are built at Cooting, what will happen to our existing village school?

The village already has sewage problems, with pools of raw sewage appearing in the fields at Bossington under certain conditions. The development would add hugely to this. East Kent is already short of water. Where will the water for this development come from?

This development would cause air pollution, light pollution and noise.

This part of the Local Development Plan has evolved without the input of our local councillor, Mike Sole. Why? Why also was there no consultation with Dover District Council when the houses will be within a short distance of the Dover area?

The owner of the largest block of land has re-iterated many times that the land is not for sale. Why has Canterbury City Council wasted taxpayers money by funding the preparing a section of the Local Development Plan that is undeliverable?

I therefore believe that this ill-considered section of the Local Development Plan should be completely and permanently removed.