

Response to Canterbury City Council's planning proposal for Chapter 5 - Rural Areas – R1

1. Adisham is a small village which sits in a beautiful rural environment, our parish marking where the North Downs rise. The village has 12 nationally- registered ancient woodlands, five of these being important SSSIs (Sites of Special Scientific Interest). It is the very nature of this environment that has drawn people to settle in the village. If this scheme went ahead, it would irrevocably alter the nature of these woodlands and surroundings to urban parkland.
2. The ability to access nature and the peace and quiet and uninterrupted views of the countryside straight from our houses is highly prized by residents. The scheme talks of offering us 'country parks'. Why would we need or want such things when we have our own natural and unspoiled environment?
3. Adisham has created its own very strong community led bottom-up by residents. This includes its own home-grown choir, two book clubs, a monthly community breakfast (The Big Breakfast), a monthly supper club, an annual village fete, two carol services... [what else?]. In addition, the recently reordered church provides a hub for a myriad of community activities. The addition of 3200 family units would completely upset the intimate, local nature of these initiatives.
4. The infrastructure implications of the scheme are particularly worrying. The roads, already busy with traffic once you exit the village would inevitably become clogged especially in conjunction with the additional 420 houses that CCC plan in Womenswold and 640 at Aylesham (joining Aylesham and Snowdown) that's proposed by the Dover Council plan. (Was there any joined up thinking between Canterbury and Dover?) How can this be conscionable or sustainable?
5. The problems of sewage disposal in this area of Kent are notorious. Such a massive expansion of population would seriously exacerbate the problem. East Kent is already a water-stressed area. We understand that CCC have no scientific evidence to show that local water resources can bear this extra burden.
6. Adisham contains prime farmland which is impressively worked by our local farmers who contribute hugely to the community in many ways. The scheme would inevitably destroy such farmland at a time when 'growing our own' would seem to be greatly needed.
7. The plan for two new schools would seriously threaten intake for Adisham's well-loved existing primary school which is rated 'Outstanding' by OFSTED
8. It seems that there was no real research done into the willingness of existing landowners to make their land available. One of the landowners appeared to have no advance notice before the plan was published let alone the courtesy of consultation. This 'developer led' approach to finding land disregards any parish

and community identified needs or preferred /designated areas. Michael Gove has very recently reiterated the importance of community generated planning and development.

9. The proposal of Canterbury City Council for this so-called 'Community Garden New Town' which would engulf this small village seems to have totally disregarded the results of public consultation. Opinion in the Parish of Adisham is strongly and unitedly uniformly against this scheme. It is also strongly opposed by our neighbours including Aylesham and Wingham. CCC have failed to consider the destructive implications of this extraordinary proposal.

Vanessa Young 19.12.22