



Strategic Planning

Maidstone Borough Council

Maidstone House

King St

Maidstone

ME15 6 JQ

23rd March 2020

P.R. Correspondence?	
REF:	
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CHO. DEF £	
DEF. W/ER	

Dear Sir

Lenham Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 Consultation

I am writing to add my support to the proposed Lenham Neighbourhood Plan. Lenham Parish Council have spent a great deal of time, effort and money producing this plan which is acceptable to the parish, and locality, as a whole and it would be undemocratic for another distant body to reject this plan out of hand.

I would also like to confirm my support for the suggested re-wording of policy CPI and addition of a paragraph 6.9.3 (copied overleaf) as proposed by a local group. The paragraph and policy is necessary as it will help align the plan to recent government guidance and more importantly help to further protect Lenham's landscape and countryside.

Please could you notify me of the decision made by the Council following a referendum when the neighbourhood plan is made.

With regards



K.M. Alexander

LENHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
REGULATION 16 CONSULTATION - FEBRUARY 2020
REPRESENTATION SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF SAVE OUR
HEATH LANDS CAMPAIGN GROUP

Suggested new Paragraph 6.9.3

6.9.3 One of the particular distinctive characteristics of Lenham Parish is the existence of relatively isolated rural settlements such as Sandway, Platts Heath, Lenham Forstal, Lenham Heath, West Street and Woodside Green. There 'is a strong relationship between the built elements of Lenham Parish, the village, the hamlets and the other settlements and their wider landscape setting. At various points across the Parish, there are clear lines of sight of the AONB, open countryside and back again from open countryside towards the built form. This experience is enhanced in several elevated locations in the Parish. This locally distinctive context provides a sense of identity and particular character. The particular landscape sensitivity of the Parish is objectively assessed in the 'Maidstone Landscape Capacity Study: Sensitivity Assessment' (January 2015) produced by Jacobs for Maidstone Borough Council.

Suggested replacement for Policy CPI : Countryside Protection

Protection for the Countryside and the Rural Settlements: Policy CPI

The Lenham Local Policies Map shows the settlement boundary for Lenham village which is extended to include the Strategic Housing Delivery Sites. Proposals for new development in the countryside beyond the extended settlement boundary will be assessed in terms of:

- 1) the potential visual impact of the development;
- 2) the landscape character effects on the site and its surroundings;
- 3) the potential impact on the biodiversity of the area;
- 4) the capacity of infrastructure and services available to serve the proposal; and
- 5) how the proposal relates to the setting of the isolated rural settlements.

Development proposals should seek to protect and enhance the environment of the Parish with particular emphasis on avoiding harmful impacts on the hamlets and other rural settlements. Proposals which fail to demonstrate that these impacts can be satisfactorily addressed will not be supported.