

Dear Sir/Madam,

I support the Lenham Neighbourhood Plan. I would like to point out that it allows for a large number of new houses to be built within the confines of the village envelope. It also allows for building south of the railway line, something we've always been assured would never be allowed. Despite this massive amount of compromise by the current population of Lenham, who have been working on the plan and its predecessor for many years (or it feels like that), Maidstone Borough council sees fit to suggest a whole new town right on our doorstep and very nearly linking up with Lenham. Of course, in time, a soulless new town would be built here and this patchwork of farmland, woods and hamlets would be rural no more. We understand that, having put in the time and effort to produce the Neighbourhood Plan, our wishes as a community will be taken into account when such disastrous policies are mooted, and our views will carry some weight when decisions are made.

In view of this, I agree with the campaigners of SOHL (the Save Our Heath Lands campaign group) who feel that countryside protection policy CP1 should be tweaked and paragraph 6.9.3 (below) be added. These aim to help protect historic Lenham's beautiful landscape and unspoilt countryside from monstrous urbanisation. I understand a similar wording was allowed by the examiner in Lewes Neighbourhood Plan, so there is some precedent for their request for such a modification.

Yours faithfully,

Glen Everett



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 CP1: Countryside Protection

Protection for the Countryside and the Rural Settlements: Policy CP1

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.