

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Lenham Neighbourhood Plan Formal Regulation 16 Consultation

As a resident of Lenham Heath I am emailing in support of the Lenham Neighbourhood Plan. This is a well produced, thoroughly researched and informative document.

I would also like to confirm my **strong support** for the suggested re-wording of policy CP1 and addition of a paragraph 6.9.3 (copy of which is attached) as proposed by the Save Our Heath Lands Campaign Group. The paragraph and policy is necessary as it will help align the Plan to recent Government guidance and importantly help to further protect Lenham's landscape and countryside

In the Lenham Neighbourhood Plan I am particularly impressed with the suggested extra access to Lenham Station in item 7.3.3 (page 22) giving access from the South side over the extra loop rail with disabled access to all platforms. This would be most popular I would think as disabled access is non-existent at present.

The Lenham Neighbourhood Plan accepts the need for more housing but with numbers in proportion to the existing village and has allocated sites for 1,364 extra houses, allowing for some social housing within that number, and all within the defined settlement boundaries. A lot of the new houses will be within walking/cycling distance of the schools which will help with traffic congestion.

With this Neighbourhood Plan Lenham has been able to retain its unique Medieval centre which has itself been declared a Conservation Area while safeguarding the rural aspect of the surrounding lands. Tourism is very important to Lenham and it would be a shame if any significant further housing were allowed to go ahead over the 1,364 as the loss of charm & unique character to the whole area would be irreversible.

I am therefore stating my support for the Lenham Neighbourhood Plan & the re-wording of policy CP1 and addition of paragraph 6.9.3 as proposed by SOHL.

Yours sincerely

Sarah King (Mrs)

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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.