

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in support of the proposed Lenham Neighbourhood Plan.

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 at the foot of this email) 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.

***The current low traffic density of Lenham Heath provides vital services to the local community that are protected by the proposed Neighbourhood Plan.***

***The local roads are extensively by dog walkers, walkers, joggers, cyclists, horse riders, horse carriages... Our children have used this road to cycle to Lenham throughout their secondary education. Also it's very popular as part of Duke of Edinburgh award. My wife and I have used this road literally thousands of times cycling to the village as a safe and environmentally friendly way to commute. Local cycle groups including San Fairy Ann (largest cycle club in Kent) regularly use this road and regard it as a safe low traffic tributary to the surrounding areas.***

***In fact, charitable cycle sportives use this route extensively through the year as a safe low traffic route through the county, equating to thousands of cyclists over the space of a year. Enjoying the excellent Air quality and views the area has to offer.***

***In summary, we believe the Lenham Neighbourhood Plan plan, specifically the paragraph below, helps protect a vital environmentally friendly transport and leisure resource, delivering health and well being for the local community, surrounding area and borough, which would be otherwise destroyed without protection. Losing this natural existing local resource would create social isolation and force people to use transport. It is like having our own gym and***

***community centre, but without the bricks and mortar which would not provide the same function.***

***We have grave concern that MBC have shown little sign to date of understanding how the local community functions, hence why it is critical they should to embody localised knowledge to protect these resources.***

***I hope these points are given serious consideration and we would welcome a formal response.***

Please could you notify me of the decision made by the Council following a referendum and/or when the Neighbourhood Plan is made.

Regards

Nigel & Jaki Richards



## **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.