

1 Luddesdown is a special area

Wine processing on the scale of the viticulture currently practiced in Luddesdown is totally at odds with the area. This is because Luddesdown is not just any area, it is special, it is one of only 14 designated National Landscapes in England. As such it is awarded National Protection from development that causes detrimental damage. It is protected for the nation to visit and to enjoy its' being.

In addition to offering stunning and vast visual landscape of chalk downland, Luddesdown is a place of peace and tranquility. It helps ease the mind from the stresses of our 24/7 modern lifestyles. This aspect more than any other is why the proposed development to enlarge the wine processing plant at Brookers Farm should be denied.

It is now acknowledged that mental wellbeing is vital for good health. It does not come in a bottle, and it can be difficult to find, and this recognition has become so much more evident since the Pandemic. Experiencing Luddesdown in the open air, lifts one's spirit, and especially on dry days!

Luddesdown provides solace and creates wellbeing. Luddesdown offers a variety of means to assist wellbeing. It can be having a gentle stroll, sitting on a bench looking at the view, walking, rambling, riding on horseback or cycling, jogging and running. These activities can take place, in the open country and for those preferring the less remote locations, Luddesdown offers quiet winding tree-lined roads, little more than trackways. It is such routeways and their many non-motorized users, who are and would continue to be, most at risk from increasing the numbers of vehicles, especially HGVs, servicing the current processing plant, especially if it is enlarged as proposed in the planning application.

2 The road system around Brookers Farm is totally inappropriate to service the expansion of wine processing at the site if planning permission is granted. The site is situated in a country lane, a single lane trackway, that is typical of the roads throughout Luddesdown Parish. Any increased vehicle volume caused by an increased winery workforce, and more product-related shipment vehicles, will place a considerable strain on the current road network which is already difficult and increasingly unsafe to use.

The trackways are narrow, unlit and winding. They are edged with steep banks often with hedged verges and often with over-hanging trees. There are no designated passing places. There are blind bends and long distances between bank-eroded passing places. Luddesdown Road is also prone to flooding in the close vicinity of Cutter Ridge.

When travelling via Luddesdown's adjoining Medway Borough, and through Cuxton from the A228/M2, or from the A2 via Cobhambury Road low railway bridge (13'9"), the HGVs wreck the tree canopy along the routes to the site. This is of particular significance as in doing so, they destroy frost protection the trees offer road users in winter. In turn this is particularly dangerous), to cyclists and motorcyclists, as this area of Lower Luddesdown, is particularly prone to severe frosts in winter and late spring; this is confirmed by personal experience.

3. Increased vehicle volume of vehicles, congestion and diminished air quality experienced by the majority of Luddesdown residents who live along Henley Street. They account for 90% of residents. In very recent years they have noticed a marked increase in the number, types and size of vehicles using Henley Street.

Henley Street has always been the main roadway to/from the heart of parish, namely Luddesdown Rd, where the Church, village hall and the Golden Lion public house are located.