

PLANNING APPLICATION 20260207

Dear Sir,

We would like to object strongly to the proposal to build 725 homes on the land between Norwood Lane and Sole Street for the following reasons:

This area is designated greenbelt and is grade 2 agricultural land used for growing crops and contains woodland copses and hedgerows. Much of our British flora and fauna is under pressure and in decline. To combat this we need to preserve green spaces with established trees and hedgerows not destroy them as this proposal is bound to do. We also need to ensure that we preserve our farmland for food production and to provide open areas of land to act as sinks for rain water and help reduce flooding on roads and surrounding areas.

Green spaces are very necessary for leisure activities and for the general wellbeing of the population both mental and physical.

The continued building of more homes is going to create an enormous urban sprawl in which the unique identities of the local villages will be lost. In this case the villages of Meopham and Sole Street will essentially be merged.

The local amenities such as doctors surgeries, dentists, schools etc and the local hospital are all struggling to cope with the numbers trying to access their facilities. More difficulty obtaining doctor and dentist's appointments and even longer waiting lists for hospital procedures will be inevitable. There seems to be no initiative in place to increase the number of hospital beds available in this area or to alleviate the appalling waiting times in the accident and emergency department of Darent Valley hospital.

Green Lane, Camer Road and the road through Sole Street is essentially a narrow country lane which is particularly narrow near the junction with the A227. It is difficult for vehicles bigger than two medium sized cars to pass each other here and vans and larger vehicles often mount the pavement so that they can pass without stopping. There is already far too much traffic using this road, especially during the rush hour period, and when there are problems on the A2, as it is used as a rat run. Much of it has no facility for foot traffic or cyclists and walking is difficult and dangerous along many sections. The exit from Manor Road onto the Sole Street road is hazardous because the railway bridge restricts visibility in one direction and parked vehicles can restrict it in the other direction.

The A227 through Meopham is very busy with through traffic now, causing problems past Meopham Green, Camer Parade and the shops near Meopham railway station. Trying to exit the parking at Camer Parade is difficult. The parking outside the shops close to the station is inadequate causing cars to park illegally. This section of the A227 is very narrow and the volume of traffic makes crossing the road hazardous.

A further 725 homes will undoubtedly increase the traffic even more along the route from the A2 through to Meopham and also along the A227 increasing noise, air pollution and danger to the residents and their children in both Sole Street, Cobham village and Meopham.

The very large number of new homes being built along the Thames corridor, in Ebbsfleet, on the Hoo peninsular and in Dartford is bound to have a cumulative effect on local amenities and roads as well as on air pollution and light pollution. The A2 is already very heavily congested, often stationary, on a daily basis especially during the morning and evening rush hours. Yet more homes in this area will exacerbate the problem and have a knock-on effect on the smaller roads in the area.

Yours faithfully

