

Land North of Marden

Position Statement by Marden Planning Opposition

5th March 2019

This statement was read by our Chair, Claudine Russell, in response to Maidstone Borough Council's Call for Sites to Marden Parish Council and Residents of Marden. Marden Planning Opposition represents a group of electors of Marden Parish.

Thank you to everyone for coming here tonight, we really appreciate your support.

The facts are that a lobbying meeting was held on the 25th February 2019 by Countryside (the developers), DHA (the planning consultants) and Firmans (the major landowner) which the Chair of Marden Parish Council Kate Tippen, our Maidstone Borough Councillors David Burton, Annabelle Blackmore and Steve McLoughlin, along with representatives from Maidstone Borough Councils planning department and KCC Highways attended.

This meeting was to present the proposal of the "Marden Garden Village" where Firmin want to build 2,000 houses on over 300 acres of prime agricultural greenfield land. This landholding and proposal will shortly be entered into the Maidstone Borough Councils "call for sites" and whilst it may seem like a long way off, building could commence as early as 2023.

Our group and residents are not against development, but Marden has already had some 470 houses built over the last 5 years. This proposed development of 2,000 more houses would represent a doubling of Marden as it is now, this is unprecedented.

Our village is not a social experiment, we do not want the village doubled. 2,000 houses to be built and just "see what happens". Marden is **NOT** the right location for this scale of development, it has serious highways, sewerage, drainage and flooding issues which this proposal will not be able to overcome.

The building of 2,000 houses will represent 8 - 10,000 more car journeys A DAY on our country roads which, even if improved in Marden culminate in pinch points through Yalding Village and Goudhurst. Not all villagers work in London and while many do and will take the train we are still a car driving community and to add 8 - 10,000 more car journeys a day through Linton and Loose into Maidstone which is already has the 5th highest pollution levels in the COUNTRY outside of London would be a tragedy.

Marden is a village with a distinctive character. We all were either brought up here, or moved here at one time or another to enjoy the character, landscape and visual amenity of this historic village. The building of 2,000 houses will crush our village and we as a community DO NOT share the vision of the landowners, DO NOT support the proposal, and

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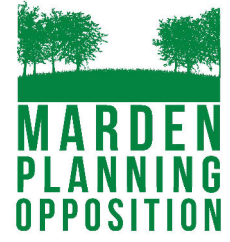


WILL NOT engage with or be involved in the creation of a “garden community” of this size in or around Marden village.

We make this statement as your electorate, the people that you ultimately represent and who vote for you. When the Parish Council are able to express an opinion on the submitted proposal we urge you to come to us for factual information, to take that information on board and to express an opinion that is in line with that of the residents of Marden.

Thank you

Contact details should you wish to join us, offer support or for Press and Media Enquiries please email mardenplanningoppositionpr@gmail.com



Email: mardenplanningoppositionpr@gmail.com Web: www.savemarden.com
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