

What can we do about it?

Show Maidstone Borough Council how you feel. The Call for Sites closes on 24th May. Be vocal and visible in your opposition **now**.



E-mail, write or speak to:

- Local Borough Councillors Annabelle Blackmore, David Burton and Steve McLoughlin (details at: bit.ly/MBC-Councillors)
- County Councillor Eric Hotson
- MP Helen Grant
- Maidstone Borough Council's Planning Department
- Marden Parish Council

Show your opposition:

- Display this leaflet or a free poster available from local shops in your window
- Buy an exterior sign from P&P Signs in Maidstone Road
- Sign the petition in local shops and online
- Join the Facebook group 'Marden Planning Opposition'
- Follow @save_marden on Twitter and Instagram
- Sign up for email updates on SaveMarden.com

Show how much you care:

- Write a testimonial about why you love Marden for the website
- Take photos of the views and wildlife you will lose
- Document current infrastructure problems
- Volunteer to help the campaign
- Vote for local election candidates who oppose the development
- Come along to the Marden Planning Opposition Village Social on Wednesday 10th April 6-11pm at the Village Club
- Join the 'March for Marden' at 12 noon on Saturday 18th May, from Memorial Hall to Southons Field, wearing yellow and black!

www.savemarden.com

WE SAY

NO

TO 2000 MORE HOUSES IN MARDEN

SaveMarden.com



Why does it matter?

The natural wildlife habitat that the farmland provides, and beautiful views it affords, are intrinsic to Marden's rural setting. This would be lost to future generations forever. The development would increase pressure on infrastructure, create congestion, result in air pollution and impact railway services, sewerage and other utilities. Our roads are already clogged: 8-10,000 more car journeys a day would have a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of residents.

The village accepts that a certain amount of development must happen, evidenced by the construction of over 500 new houses since 2015. However, a plan on this massive scale is inappropriate for a historic Wealden village like Marden. It will become a town, and will lose its special character forever.

What is this all about?

Three local landowners are working with the developer Countryside to submit a proposal to build 2000 more houses in Marden, effectively doubling its size. The plan – which includes houses, another primary school, a secondary school and a second GP surgery – is being put forward to Maidstone Borough Council in response to their 'Call for Sites'. The Council has invited landowners to submit plans of varying size that could help meet their target for new houses. They are interested in proposals that meet the government's criteria for 'Garden Communities'.

Where is the proposed site?

The land being proposed for development – some 330 acres of farmland – is on either side of Maidstone Road, north of the railway line. The site would encompass Marden Turf, extending back towards Pattenden Lane, and encircle both Marden Sports Centre and the cemetery, extending well beyond them in the direction of Maidstone. If the scheme is selected, building could commence as early as 2023.

Who are Marden Planning Opposition?

A group of villagers who are passionately against the development are giving their time to oppose the scheme. This is a community initiative to unite all those who want to fight the plans.

Have ideas or evidence that could help?

Email: MardenPlanningOpposition@gmail.com

Want to help raise media/public awareness?

Email: MardenPlanningOppositionPR@gmail.com



Key

Beige area: new housing

Pink area: new schools

Green areas: new green spaces

White: new roads