

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Local Plan \(TWBC\)](#)
Subject: Response to the Public Consultation on the New Local Plan Ref STR/SS 1 (Specifically Paddock Wood and Surroundings)
Date: 25 February 2024 20:23:18

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Dear TWBC Planning Team

As a resident living close to Paddock Wood, and regularly using the towns facilities, I am appalled, at and wish to formally object to, the extent of construction and development proposed in the [New Local Plan Ref STR/SS 1](#) prepared by TWBC and the lack of believable proposals to adequately increase utility, road and drainage infrastructure along with local schooling, healthcare and sports facilities.

It appears that the plan is to build circa of 50% of the entire boroughs new housing in and around Paddock Wood. It sadly feels like a 'not in my backyard' approach with TWBC taking what they see as the easy option to achieve their new build housing targets that will destroy the Paddock Wood town community and environment that the current residents have benefited from over recent decades by overloading roads, utilities, healthcare, school and wellbeing infrastructure with thousands of new residents.

Residents already have trouble seeing their doctor at the local surgery, which is closed to new patients Where will all the thousands of new residents be able to go locally to see their GP? Not to mention dentists. All other local village health centres are closed to new requests.

The local road and utility infrastructure and their condition are already below standard with numerous long term road closures impacting traffic flows in the last year due to failing utilities. There is no detail of how this will be adequately improved and expanded when thousands of new residents arrive? Ditto the train station and parking?

There is already a complete lack of adequate sports and leisure facilities in the town especially after the houses that have been built in the last few years with our aging and small leisure centre. And what happened to the swimming pool? I can't see this being identified on the plan?

One of my most significant concerns is flooding, not just the immediate areas around Paddock Wood where the housing is earmarked to be built but the consequential impact of vast areas of new hard paving meaning rainwater will not be soaked up by the fields but rapidly be channelled to the local ditch systems almost certainly causing worse flooding in the area out along Queens Street , Wagon Lane and along Darman Lane towards the River Teise and Laddingford. Roads in this area have been cut off by flooding multiple times this winter, with yet another flood warning for tomorrow as I write this, and comments about a new sewage works near Lucks Lane discharging into the ditches will almost certainly make this downstream / ditch issue much worse. What consultation has taken place in this regard with Tonbridge and Malling BC who will pick up much of this water flow? Much further detail is required to explain clearly how this will be managed and avoid making the current position worse. It is unbelievable that so much residential is being proposed to be

built in these Medway flood plain areas and is a disaster waiting to happen.

How much engagement has there been with the Paddock Wood Town Council? From what I see and hear there has been very little which is unacceptable for a development of this scale and your New Local Plan seems not to reference or care about the Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan, produced by those that know the area best and live here.

If these houses are to be built by private developers, then real improvements must be made, paid for and delivered at the same time, if not before, these new developments.

Your New Local Plan is simply not acceptable in its current form, I formally object to it and I trust you will respond and address to the satisfaction of the Paddock Wood Town Council the above concerns before progressing to the next stage of your Local Plan.

I would appreciate if you could confirm receipt of this email.

Yours sincerely

Karen Higgins

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