

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Local Plan \(TWBC\)](#)
Subject: Public Consultation on the New Local Plan Ref STR/SS 1
Date: 26 February 2024 21:05:25

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Dear Planning,

I wish to give my views for the Public Consultation on the New Local Plan Ref: STR/SS1.

I object to the proposed mass building of new homes in Paddock Wood for the following reasons:

- 1) Paddock Wood suffers severe flooding and is at full capacity. TWBC's strategy is completely flawed because it does not discriminate between waste, fresh and surface water and I hear reports of damp issues appearing in ground floor properties because of it. The strategy needs to be reconsidered.
- 2) There is inadequate provision for transport links in the town, which has roads filled to capacity with cars at peak times. Traffic diverts into 'rat runs' that are completely unsuitable for HGVs and properties on them suffer noise danger, verge damage and the unnerving possibility of accidents and possible loss of life in the future.
- 3) The health facilities are not able to accommodate the sheer increase in patients even now, let alone in a few years time. Wait times are constantly reported to be weeks for a face-to-face appointment and the only way to get one relatively quickly is by a phone appointment. Whilst this works for a number of patient issues there are many who will need an urgent one in person to diagnose issues quickly and properly - particularly with regard to pregnancy, complex long-term issues and to ascertain if an issue is serious and requires emergency treatment. Already we see A&E at local hospitals overwhelmed with people who are very worried about problems they cannot get an answer to from their GP, online or through the 111 service. With regard to the latter there have been cases reported in the national press about people dying from getting incorrect or inadequate help from 111.
- 4) The primary and secondary schools are at capacity and cannot accept any more children. Many people who will come to the area to take up the new-builds will be relatively young and will already have children. There is simply no place for the children to be educated.
- 5) Money for anti-social behaviour allocated to TWBC has not been utilised; the Police station has been demolished for houses that can't yet be sold; and there is not an adequate Police presence in the town. Reports of a significant increase in crime including burglaries, muggings, drug dealing and attempted robberies from houses captured on door-bell cams are increasing. There is graffiti all over the place that isn't cleaned by the anti-graffiti unit TWBC used to have and this encourages an atmosphere of hatred and turf war (possibly by the influx of young

men from places like Croydon and the Medway towns to the new social housing sites). A 1980's experiment on the New York subway to curtail the crime wave there involved constant cleaning of the trains of graffiti. The crime wave drop was spectacular and is a world-renowned model. TWBC should rethink the cuts to this service.

6) The destruction of the town's beautiful and diverse countryside is extremely damaging for biodiversity and ecology. This has been voiced ad nauseum by a large number of residents and myself previously so the details will not be re-addressed here. Suffice to say that the unnecessary and continued loss of habitat and food for animals and insects will have devastating consequences for our environment going forward and will inevitably affect human food sources.

7) The prospect of frequent flooding points to the stark prospect of a major flooding incident (such as was seen in Marden in 2014) causing the spread of water-borne diseases long thought to be banished from Western countries such as diphtheria and cholera. If inadequate sewerage facilities are in place and the transport and emergency facilities are not able to cope with the sheer amount of people infected, blame will be laid squarely at those who are responsible for managing and preventing flooding. This could amount to criminal prosecution if a major incident had a significant proportion of residents infected with life-threatening diseases because of negligence and is a major concern of many in the town.

8) The unnecessary conversion of farmland to housing will severely damage our ability as a nation to feed ourselves. We cannot rely on food imports for the real possibility of another pandemic or fuel shortage (like we have seen together in recent years) and it is more expensive to obtain food this way. Local produce at a far lower price is the way forward and we must cherish and protect our valuable farmland for generations to come - particularly as we see a marked influx of young people to the town who will produce many children; and because of central government's continued policy of mass immigration. This point dovetails with the need to maintain adequate countryside for biodiversity so our arable crops don't start to die across the nation, causing mass starvation. This is a real possibility if the wrong people get to make appalling and ill-informed decisions that will affect us all.

9) Central government's housing targets have been scrapped and its direction for local councils to look for Brownfield sites FIRST before building on Greenbelt or farmland means TWBC must reassess its desire to do the converse. This has all been addressed by many others, including myself and will not be mentioned again here. Suffice to say TWBC's policy of mass home building without regard to all of these nine points is totally inadequate and highly detrimental to the town and its future.

Yours faithfully,

Vincent Karl Greene

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