

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Local Plan \(TWBC\)](#)
Subject: Paddock Wood Borough Council Local Plan
Date: 23 February 2024 17:38:31

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RE: PADDOCK WOOD

Dear Sirs

I am writing regarding the consultation on the further development of Paddock Wood within the Borough Councils Local Plan.

I refer to the Neighbourhood Plan's Vision and Objectives.

- My view at present is that the current and any future development is not sympathetic to built and natural heritage.
- Appropriate infrastructure would appear to be slow in being provided.
- Integration of new growth would require development of further facilities which would not appear to be forthcoming and I am told that with a reduction in the number of houses to be built, then certain infrastructure projects would be withdrawn.
- Delivery of sustainable design and promotion of active travel is important and easy to draft on paper but in practise it is somewhat different. People will drive to work and school for convenience and not walk or cycle due to other daily needs. The road network as it stands is not adequate for current usage and any further development away from the main Maidstone Road through route will bring excess traffic along small lanes or current residential roads.

With reference to any flood zones within the Paddock Wood development area, I note that the maps refer to data from 1960 and 1968. This is surely very out of date and not relevant for use in 2024, some 50 years later. I understand that there is more recent data available and would hope that this is being considered. It is important to ensure that all residents are safe from flooding and all access routes are also safe.

I moved to Paddock Wood 19 years ago rather than staying in Tunbridge Wells as I wished to be able to take walks in the countryside from my front door. I now live with the fact that this is not such an option and will be considering driving the car to an area to walk. This is not an environmentally friendly approach to wellbeing.

One area that I do not see covered is maintenance of the public areas. I observe the difference in the maintenance of Paddock Wood in comparison to Tunbridge Wells, Paddock Wood being the poor relation. It is important that any increase in housing receives the correct increase in support of facilities and services. If we are to tick the

environmental box, then we should be encouraging people to stay local and not to use cars to access leisure.

I hope that my views are considered in the consultation process and deemed to be valid. At present Paddock Wood is seeing a considerable amount of change, some of this will benefit all, but during the process it is causing a lot of upheaval and inconvenience. It should be taken into account that if the town is to grow it needs to have all the appropriate basic needs ie GP surgeries, schools, leisure facilities, public transport, adequate road systems, adequate parking and most importantly safety from flooding.

Yours faithfully

Lesley Wakeling

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