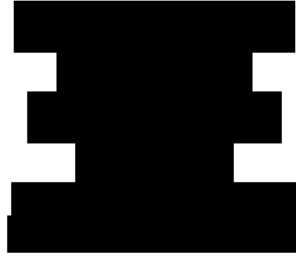


**Michael Darby**

(1331693)



The Inspectors  
Council Offices,  
White Cliffs Business Park,  
Whitfield,  
DOVER  
CT16 3PJ

17<sup>th</sup> October, 2023

SENT VIA EMAIL TO: [louise@poservices.co.uk](mailto:louise@poservices.co.uk)

Dear Inspectors,

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission. I will keep my observations brief as others are supplying far more detailed submissions.

**Re: SAP50 (Land adjacent to Short Street, Chillenden)**

There are many things which my "baby boomer" generation will be held accountable for when judged through the eyeglass of history, but perhaps the most extraordinary is the wilful, dare one say gleeful piecemeal destruction of our countryside and with it, the unique, millenniums old culture, which has continuously developed since pre Roman times in these wonderful islands.

I fear those living now will never and perhaps should never be forgiven as our distinctive culture is destroyed and forgotten forever.

Future development in Chillenden is not justified as stated under the Sustainability Appraisal in which it declares a "significant negative affect" on the hamlet of Chillenden as per:

- SA7 FLOOD RISK
- SA5 RESOURCES
- SA10 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

There is an indisputable high flood risk with local memories going back as far as the catastrophic flooding in September 1973 (apparently over 3 feet of water in some places) when the whole lower part of the village was under water for days.

The site on Short Street is the lowest point of our valley, with no obvious or economically viable method of providing adequate drainage or foul water removal.

Many of the current residents of Short Street have witnessed, over recent years, extensive flooding in the area which will, due to the effects of global warming and rising sea levels, most certainly become a far more severe threat to the local neighbourhood and its residents in the very near future.

There is no apparent rationale in Dover District Council now totally ignoring previous reports and without explanation or consultation with the local community, deeming Chillenden a suitable site for "executive style" housing. It clearly fails the tests under Section 34 of the NPPF (2019).

One has to question why this is and who is the beneficiary of this volte-face?

There are no facilities in our hamlet such as shops, schools, accessible public transport infrastructure, medical and dental services. Indeed access to Short Street is generally down potentially dangerous and poorly lit and maintained single track lanes with absolutely no provision for pedestrians who take their lives in their hands every time they venture out on to the highway.

One of the only safe thoroughfares for pedestrians is The Lane which according to all the available evidence is a long established and historic (strangely though, unadopted) public right of way across the proposed site (GOO006) and which indeed until recent times, provided the main access to The Grange (a Grade 2 listed residence) and still provides access for the foul waste pumping station operated by Southern Water (which apparently operates at near capacity and would need to be completely upgraded to even attempt to handle the increase in sewage handling any development would undoubtedly require).

The proposed development site is actually two sites. Part of the site lies within our local conservation area, the other is productive farm land, neither of which should be utilised for non urgent housing simply to fulfil quota diktats.

There are other development sites within Chillenden which do not seem to have the severe disadvantages of the Short Street site, however, in my opinion, a far more logical solution would be to leave the historic hamlet of Chillenden completely alone and concentrate on providing local housing in Aylesham which already has extensive local facilities and transport connections and is already being developed and regenerated under the Aylesham Garden Village development.

I would implore you, for our future generations sake, to strike the Short Street proposed development from the Dover Local Plan.

Yours faithfully,

Michael Darby.