

SELLING PARISH COUNCIL

www.sellingparishcouncil.gov.uk
clerk@sellingparishcouncil.gov.uk

Swale Local Plan

Dear Residents of Selling,

We all live here because we love the countryside, our rural peace and the sheer joy of a beautiful English village. **Selling is now facing the greatest threat to its way of life in living memory.**

Our contentions are as follows: that the Swale Local Plan involves the totally unwarranted, unjustified building of 90 new houses on two traditional old orchards either side of Selling Road near Monica Close. This will cause complete destruction of wildlife and biodiversity and affect us all.

One of these sites is wholly within the Kent Downs AONB, which has the highest level of environmental protection in English law. The other site is outside the official built-up settlement boundary of Selling. Both are within an identified 'area of tranquillity'.

Swale says the houses are to meet local community needs and provide jobs and sustainable development. They provide not a shred of evidence to support their claim. It seems they base their proposal solely on our proximity to a train station. Their own strategic assessments found the proposed sites "unsuitable" and state the development is a "stand-out concern" due to lack of local services and facilities. They have failed to properly consult our community as legally required.

Despite the reasonable and clear arguments made by 80 of our residents at the recent online public meeting held by the Parish Council with the Swale CEO and Head of Planning, Swale is persisting in its misjudged plan. This means an additional 180 cars on our narrow, often perilous country lanes during the school run, driving to jobs outside the village and negotiating LGVs and delivery vans. The prospect of significant light, noise and vehicle pollution is frightening, as will be the reckless and intensive 76% increase in houses in the station area of Selling.

The Parish Council is resolved to rigorously oppose this development and councillors are putting together the final touches to a detailed representation. Many of you have already sent in your views to Swale by emailing Lpcomments@swale.gov.uk (you will get a confirmation of receipt). We have heard from other residents who wish to add their names to our representation. You simply need to tell us if you prefer to do this. You can also write to Planning Policy, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT. **The deadline is 5.00 pm on Friday 30 April.**

The Annual Parish Meeting this Thursday 22nd April at 7.00pm is online and will discuss again the Local Plan. Please take part. See our website for joining details and information

We have more open air drop-in surgeries on the Local Plan, where you can tell us what you think and ask questions. These are **outside The Sondes this Friday 23 April 1.00 pm – 3.00pm and Saturday 24 April between 10.00 am – 2.00 pm.**

To say no to 90 houses in Selling why not display the poster on the back of this letter in your window or somewhere prominent. You can also download it from our website.

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