

Malcolm Doyle
Local Development Framework
Gravesham Borough Council
Civic Centre
Windmill Street
GRAVESEND
Kent
DA12 1AU

10th December 2007

Dear Malcolm

RE: Local Development Framework Document

Firstly, the document has to be applauded for its comprehensive coverage and detail on the Borough.

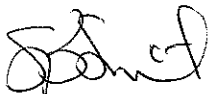
To do its analysis justice, Meopham Parish Council ideally needed more copies to allow every councillor adequate time to study and comment, but with only one copy, only a few councillors were able to read it thoroughly, but I list a few of the comments raised.

- 1/ Page 17 – SO15 Maintain the Green Belt, protect existing landscape features, enhance degraded landscapes and encourage the planting of new landscaping.
To avoid conflict between SO15 and SO16 we suggest that the words 'within the Village envelopes' might be added to the last line of SO16, after the word 'development'
- 2/ Page 57, option 1, would seem to be the correct option for provision of gypsy/traveller site, and stress it is inappropriate for green belt to be used. If new sites were found on Green Belt it would erode Green Belt and work against the enhancement of degraded land, or could lead to sites being isolated and remote from services.
- 3/ Page 61-66 Retail, insufficient consideration given as to how local centres can be maintained, particularly with negative action such as Post Office closures happening.

- 4/ Page 186-191 Option C should be strongly supported. As the document confirms the vast majority of development in the Borough over the next 5-10 years will be north of the A2, it is therefore vital that the Green Belt is very strictly preserved. Whilst it is recognised that the population growth (particularly with a large influx of immigrants) the Green Belt and the character of the rural areas must be preserved at all costs.
- 5/ P158-160 Water Supply. It is surprising that 'New Build' houses are not adopting the European system of collecting rainwater and using it for toilet flushing. After the drought of 2006, this would seem an obvious move to efficiently use available water supply.
- 6/ P206 The objectives should make it clear that small scale development can only occur if not encroaching on the Green Belt.
- 7/ P208 Due to the pressure of development north of the A2, the preservation of the area south of the A2 must take priority. Option A should therefore be supported without the need to alter the village envelopes.

In addition, following the meeting with yourself and Sharon Donald on Monday 26th November 2007, Meopham Parish Council voted to support the development of affordable/private sheltered housing on 4 acres of 'London and Orient' site through 'exception policy'. This is subject to ratification at Full Council on Tuesday 18th December 2007. We will contact you to confirm the result shortly after the Full Council meeting.

Yours sincerely



PP
Peter Hasler
Chairman of Council
Meopham Parish Council.