

## Opposition to the plans to create Otterpool Garden Town Core Strategy Review Local Plan SS6 – SS9

### 4.168 Charter for Otterpool Park

*The town will enhance the natural environment with carefully designed homes and gardens, generous parks and an abundance of trees, woodlands and natural habitats.*

**Why not just leave the natural habitats alone** - To build houses and the destruction caused by building on precious farm land which will greatly affect the wild life population and flora and fauna in itself is unacceptable. But also, the Pollution with all the extra thousands of cars. The Government warn us that we have to cut down on emissions, so why would pollution from more cars be acceptable?

### Policy SS6 – Development Requirements

The amount of new housing built over the past 3 years in Sellindge, Folkestone, Shorncliffe and surrounding areas there is **no shortage** of housing for people who live in this area, therefore we will be providing housing for people from outside the area. Why would it be acceptable for residents be subjected to an influx of people from outside this area, possibly commuting from London?

### Employment

#### (3) Employment Development

There is a very high unemployment rate in Kent only made a lot worse by the Coronavirus Epidemic. Many established business are closing down and thousands of people made redundant. The development will only create jobs for people in the construction and building trade, and infrastructure and will not create long term job opportunities. Money needs to be allocated to **established business** to help them. Business rates need to be cut.

#### (4) Community and Education

We have been told that the new development will bring many benefits, what are these exactly? New schools, doctors, Clinics, supermarkets, etc. The only reason these would be necessary is **as a result of the proposal to build Otterpool New Town** There are no benefit to residents of Lympne and Sellindge whatsoever, we have a perfectly good school, doctors surgeries, supermarkets, in fact everything we need.

### Place Shaping Principles

#### 4.181 *An innovative approach must be taken to maximise walking, Cycling etc*

Why would building town enhance the facilities we already have!! We already have many walks routes, public footpaths, cycling. We will have a lot less if a large percentage of land is used for building houses.

## **Policy SS7 (6) Sustainable access and movement**

Otterpool Garden Village is in a different league to Nichols Quarry. Even if new roads are built to accommodate the development, SDC are unable to predict what impact the extra traffic will have on the area. The only road into Hythe and the coast A261. There are tailbacks for 3 miles in the summer and peak times, and the traffic through Lympe has increased 10 fold in the past 5 years.

If these plans are accepted, it will be too late, the damage will already have been done and we as residents will have to suffer the consequences.

## **Policy SS8**

### **(1) b. Water efficiency and demand management measures**

**Water Shortage** - According to the experts there is a severe water shortage in Kent which is likely to get worse with Global Warming. No matter how efficiently water is managed, how can it be possible to sustain a garden town with so many residents, landscaping, employment demands etc?

## **Tourism - Kent - The Garden of England**

This is an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The reason tourists come to Lympe & Hythe are because they want to visit a beautiful and unspoiled area. Can you predict what adverse effect this will have on tourism and the impact on Supermarkets and other businesses in Hythe?

## **In Summary**

To create a new 'Garden Town' will radically, irrevocably change the dynamics of this area, not for the better, but very much for the worst. The correct procedures were not carried out and the respective Parish Councils were not given the opportunity in advance to discuss these plans 99% of residents and the Parish Councils are opposed to this development.

It has become very apparent with the epidemic of Corona Virus that highly populated areas are the worst hit. For example Ashford has the second highest Corona Virus cases in the whole country. Over the past 3 months our open spaces, parks and areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty have become even more precious.

The UK will be going into a 2<sup>nd</sup> recession for probably another 10 years, it is highly inappropriate to spend millions of pounds creating a "Garden Town" which is nothing but a White Elephant and not needed or wanted by 99% of the residents who live in this area.

We chose to live in a village like many other residents, and want to remain in a Village.

