

Question marks over air quality raise 'grave concerns' Traffic pollution fears Over 675-home scheme

by **Chloe Holmwood**
cholmwood@thekmgrouop.
co.uk
@chloeholmwoodKM

Opponents of plans for hundreds of new homes on farmland in Borden say the application should be binned over pollution fears. Borden Parish Council has "grave concerns" over air quality in the area of the proposed Wises Lane development.

It commissioned the University of Kent to respond to air quality conclusions in Swale council's planning officer's final report on Quinn Estates' proposals for up to 675 houses.

The university's experts say the levels of pollution are double the national limit.

The application is due to be discussed at Swale council's Extraordinary Planning Meeting tonight (Wednesday).

Clive Sims, Borden Parish Council's vice-chairman, said: "I have grave concerns over the high pollution levels in the area of the proposed Wises Lane development and this revelation of poor air quality places even more credence on the initial air quality assessment produced by the University of Kent."

He added: "It begs the question, if this high pollution level - which is more than double the national limit - is evident, why has it not been mentioned in any of the documentation produced

on the lead to the Wises Lane development and, more importantly, why were these facts not provided to the planning committee for the Manor Farm development decision?"

The university's report demonstrated that there was evidence to show current monitoring, by both Swale council and the applicant's air quality consultant, Entran, underestimated the levels of air pollution in the area and, therefore, should this application go ahead, that levels of air pollutants would be worsened still.

The report showed the air quality levels in the vicinity of the proposed development was double the national limit.

It said: "It seems likely that this is an overestimate, but it also seems probable that the annual average for this location will exceed the national limit."

It also said that because of the "discrepancy" between Entran's predicted and measured values, they should be re-evaluated.

However, in a report to councillors, head of planning James Freeman, said the report was "fundamentally flawed" for two reasons.

These, he said, were that the measuring periods were far too short and the equipment used was not suitable for this type of monitoring.

The meeting will be held at Swale House in East Street, Sittingbourne, tonight at 7pm.



Clive Sims, vice-chairman of Borden Parish Council

Let your
business
bloom

We have the
right solution
for you...

KM



To advertise in
Gardening
www.kentonline.co.uk/
bookanad

7 DAYS
SPRING
BREAK
£290
COACH BREAK TO SCOTLAND

IMPACTADVISOR
INVERNAID HOTEL
LOCH LOVOND NATIONAL PARK

SATURDAY 9TH MARCH

Come and visit Scotland in the Spring! With included excursions to the Falkirk Wheel and Glasgow's Kelvingrove Museum. You will also get the chance to explore Oban, Glencoe, Inveraray and the beautiful Trossachs.

TOUR INCLUDES

6 nights half board. Nightly entertainment. Excursions.

PICKUP FROM

Ramsgate, Broadstairs, Margate, Birchington, Herne Bay, Whitstable, Canterbury, Birchanger Services

LOCHS.COM
01389 713713



LOCHS & GLENS HOLIDAYS, SCHOOL ROAD, GARTCHARN, G83 3BW

Thinking about
moving?

