



## **BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

Mrs Alison Swannick – Clerk to the Council  
Tel: 07783223450 Email: Clerk@Biddenden.gov.uk  
Website: www.Biddenden.gov.uk

26 September 2019

Local Plan  
Planning Policy  
Planning Services  
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council  
Town Hall  
Civic Way  
ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS  
Kent TN1 1RS

Dear Sirs


Please find attached a letter which was sent to the Head of Strategic Planning objecting to the development of the Benenden Hospital site together with correspondence sent to Benenden Parish Council. The parish council has been asked to submit its comments directly to your local plan by Mr Steven Baughen.

The letters very clearly set out the objections that Biddenden Parish Council have to the development of the Benenden Hospital site in terms of the building of new dwellings. The knock-on effect on Biddenden is significant, but very little consideration appears to have been given to the issues that the parish council has raised. In fact, no replies have been received to- date to indicate that the issues raised by Biddenden Parish Council have been taken into consideration by those involved in the planning or to clarify any of the points raised.

The parish council looks forward to hearing from you shortly.

Kind regards

Yours faithfully

  
Alison Swannick  
Parish Clerk

Encs



## **BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

Mrs Alison Swannick – Clerk to the Council  
Tel: 07783223450 Email: Clerk@Biddenden.gov.uk  
Website: www.Biddenden.gov.uk

17 September 2019

Head of Strategic Planning  
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council  
Mount Pleasant Road  
Royal Tunbridge Wells  
Kent  
TN1 1RS

Dear Sir

I am writing on behalf of Biddenden Parish Council with regard to the Benenden Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan in order to register the council's concerns regarding the impact upon Biddenden, specifically the Castletons Oak Crossroads and Benenden Rd to Woolpack Corner, by the proposed Benenden Hospital developments detailed within their Neighbourhood Plan.

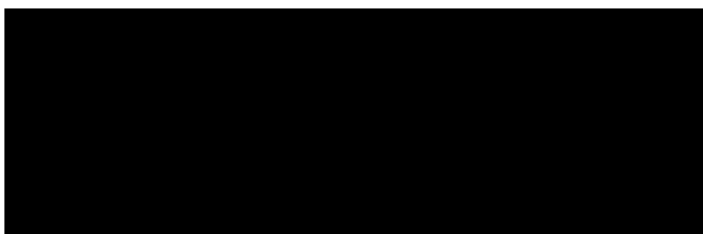
Biddenden Parish Council wrote to the parish council in April 2019 and again in response to their Regulation 14 consultation for the Benenden Neighbourhood Plan. I am attaching copies of both letters so that you can see the reasons for Biddenden Parish Council's concerns.

Whilst Biddenden Parish Council appreciates that new developments are being built everywhere, the impact of Site 424 and Site 41 (late site), will impact upon Biddenden, not least because of the increase in traffic in two key areas: Castletons Oak and Benenden Road to Woolpack Corner. Castletons Oak crossroads is an extremely dangerous crossroads and has been the site of several recent accidents. Benenden Road will be the main access to Biddenden Village, and this road is already busy and suffering speeding cars in a residential area, with hidden driveways and an s school. An increase in speed in these two areas causes the parish council great concern and the impact of the two developments mentioned doesn't appear to have taken this into account.

The two letters attached make the parish council's concerns quite clear, and we look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely



Alison Swannick  
Parish Clerk

Enc: 2



## BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs Alison Swannick – Clerk to the Council  
Tel: 07783223450 Email: Clerk@Biddenden.gov.uk  
Website: www.Biddenden.gov.uk

13 September 2019

NDP Feedback  
Community Office  
Benenden Village Hall  
The Street  
Benenden  
Cranbrook  
Kent TN12 0SS

[NDPReg14@benendenparishcouncil.org](mailto:NDPReg14@benendenparishcouncil.org)

Dear Sirs

I have been asked to reply to you regarding the Benenden Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 consultation on behalf of Biddenden Parish Council.

You will recall that when the Benenden Neighbourhood Plan was first published that Biddenden Parish Council wrote a letter to the Chairman objecting to the developments on the hospital site. It is noted that the site remains in the plan, and for this reason, a copy of this letter will be sent to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and a copy of the first letter is attached for ease of reference.

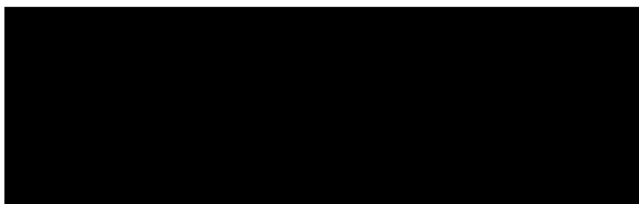
As the "Constraints" section on page 49 of the Regulation 14 consultation document states, the Castletons Oak crossroads is a narrow and dangerous crossroads. The accident record on this crossroads is poor and two accidents have recently taken place. The increase in traffic that would arise from such development on the hospital site trying to reach the station in Headcorn or driving to amenities in Biddenden, would make this crossroads even more dangerous than it currently is and compromises public safety.

With the increase in housing on the hospital site, there will also be an increase in traffic on the Benenden Road. This road has a speed limit of 60 mph, which is not suitable for a road with a good deal of housing, hidden driveways and a school on it. Parishioners in Biddenden have already reported issues with speeding of vehicles and tractors alike. The traffic is

already reasonably heavy. An increase in traffic will also have a knock-on effect in Biddenden which is possibly closer, or at least as close, than Benenden Village.

It is for these reasons that Biddenden Parish Council object to the development of the hospital site.

Yours sincerely



Alison Swannick  
Parish Clerk

Cc: Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Attachment



## **BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

Mrs Alison Swannick – Clerk to the Council  
Tel: 07783223450 Email: Clerk@Biddenden.gov.uk  
Website: www.Biddenden.gov.uk

25 April 2019

Cllr Nicola Thomas  
Chair  
Benenden Parish Council  
c/o Mrs Caroline Levett  
Parish Clerk  
[clerk@benendenparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@benendenparishcouncil.org)

Dear Cllr Thomas

Biddenden Parish Council has been sent a copy of the draft Benenden Neighbourhood Plan and has noted the proposed development at East End. The parish council has discussed these developments and does have concerns about how the developments will affect Biddenden.

### **1. Castletons Oak Crossroads**

Castleton's Oak crossroads has been a discussion point for many years in Biddenden. It is a dangerous crossing and several different methods have been tried over the years, without success, to slow the traffic down and prevent accidents. The parish council believes that the increase in traffic using this junction will be detrimental and dangerous, and if the proposed developments go ahead then Benenden parish council should be aware of their impact upon the local roads and, indeed, the impact on a neighbouring village as Biddenden is possibly closer to the developments than Benenden village centre given the boundary is up Mockbeggar Lane.

### **2. Woolpack Corner/Benenden Road**

This is another dangerous corner in Biddenden which will be the recipient of increased traffic from the new developments. This road connects Cranbrook Road to Tenterden Road and provides a cut through to Headcorn and the station. It does get a high volume of traffic and these developments will exacerbate the problems already experienced there.

Biddenden Parish Council asks that when working on the Benenden Neighbourhood Plan consideration is given to these issues. They may not affect the centre of Bendenden or the majority of Benenden's residents, but they will impact upon Biddenden as the traffic flowing through will be increased and these two areas, in particular, are not capable of withstanding large traffic increases if safety is compromised.

Kind regards



Alison Swannick  
Biddenden Parish Clerk