

URGENT – we need you to vote

Dear Bridge Resident,

We need you to help protect our village and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

VOTE NO

TO THE CANTLEY PROPOSALS

This Saturday, November 25th 10am to 4 pm in the Village Hall you are invited by Bridge Neighbourhood Planning Committee to vote on a development proposal submitted by Cantley Ltd.

We write to give you what we believe is a balancing view of the proposal by putting our views to you directly. There has not been the opportunity for full and open debate.

Due to the very short timescales given to the village residents to consider the proposal and poor communication on the opportunity to consult with the Cantley Ltd representative, it is important for the future of the village that you assess this proposal carefully.

A number of benefits and risks have been identified to the village by Bridge Parish Council in such a way as to steer towards a ‘YES’ vote, so these need to be looked at carefully.

- There is no allocation for housing in Bridge as stated in the Canterbury district local plan which was only adopted in July of this year.
- A ‘yes’ vote will not strengthen our position to fight future development. It will weaken it by providing clear evidence that the village supports building on agricultural land. It will have a significant negative impact on our designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and historical conservation area.

- We are not going to 'lose our valuable community space' if we vote 'No', The landowner has always been supportive of the village and it is unlikely that they would not extend the lease for the Recreation Ground and also the allotments.
- There is no guarantee in the proposal that other planning requests will not be submitted in the future on the land surrounding the village.
- The building of these houses will put in place key infrastructure that would make the building of further housing in the area more likely.
- If the plan is approved, the developer will be obliged to put aside land for a village hall and a car park, but they will not be build them. The village will have to raise the funds for the car park and village hall, possibly in excess of £1M.
- The village is being squeezed on all sides; 4000 houses are planned for the Mountfield site just off the New Dover Road and the proposed Highland Court development will take away further farmland and orchards.
- We need to be wary that the offer gives us no time to consider. If the proposal is good today for both parties it will still be good when the village has had adequate opportunity for discussion and proper time to consider. Why such a hurry? Vote 'No' and allow due time for consideration of all aspects.
- We have to be very clear about what we want; to encourage building on agricultural land within our AONB or not.

**Do not assist in opening the village to major building works.
Keep the planning boundaries clear.**

Vote 'No'.