

NEWS FROM LYNSTED WITH KINGSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

BYPASS AND HOUSING THREAT TO LYNSTED

A consultation process has begun for Swale Borough Council's 'Local Plan Review'.

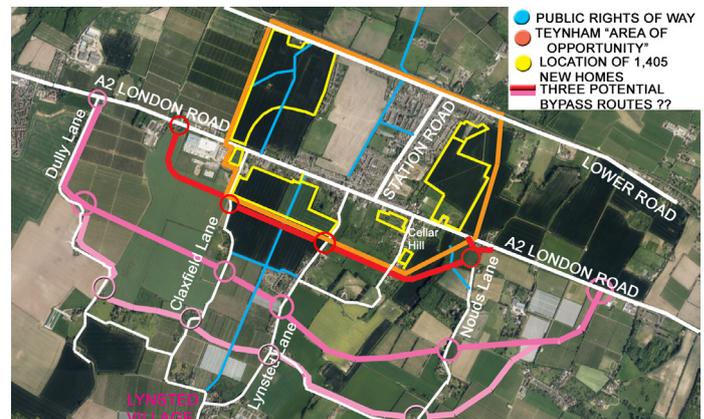
Buried deep in the 1000 page document is a proposal to build 305 new houses in Lynsted with Kingsdown Parish – an increase of 60%. Amongst the plots identified are the bottom of Claxfield Lane, in the orchards behind the Dover Castle pub and on land in Cellar Hill – the latter two being in a conservation area.

Worse still, a bypass would run South of the London Road – pouring concrete over swathes of important local green spaces and grade 1 agricultural land. The exact location for this so-called 'movement corridor' has not yet been identified, but our map shows potential routes based on previous proposals. For example, a failed attempt in the 1990s favoured a route around Coolchain, through Bogle and down the Lyn Valley.

"It's the biggest threat that Lynsted has ever faced. Yet there has been no dialogue with residents or Parish Councils"

Julien Speed, Chairman

A further 1,100 new houses are planned for Teynham. That's a total of 1,405 extra houses, meaning around 2,000 more cars in the area.



The route for the Lynsted bypass has not been confirmed – but it could be one of the above

If each of those cars makes just one return journey a day, that will be 4,000 additional vehicle movements.

The London Road that runs between Teynham and Lynsted is already an Air Quality Management Area due to the high level of pollution. More traffic will exacerbate the problem.

There is no recognition in the draft Local Plan that the Government's housing targets are being re-assessed. New investment in the Midlands and North of England indicates that developments will be moved away from the South East.

Housebuilding should also be focussed on towns and cities, and brownfield sites – not on the best and most versatile agricultural land.

Once the consultation period ends on 23 March, Swale Council will submit the plan to the Secretary of State – who will appoint an independent planning inspector to assess it for 'soundness'.

Please see overleaf for detailed reasons why your Parish Council objects to the Local Plan.



REASONS WHY THE LOCAL PLAN IS UNSOUND

- Local plans should include 'meaningful involvement' with communities. A promised second stage of consultation, where residents could inject local knowledge and feedback on specific proposals, was abandoned
- The first time Lynsted Parish Council heard about the bypass and 305 houses was on 19 January!
- There is no proper transport and infrastructure strategy
- SBC is failing to protect the health and well-being of residents. They are responsible for managing traffic in Air Quality Management Areas - specifically to avoid the 'cumulative impact' of pollution east of Sittingbourne and west of Ospringe
- SBC is relying on suspect air quality data to support the building of a bypass. They don't even measure some of the most dangerous pollutants
- Bypasses attract more traffic, even without new homes in the equation (CPRE study). Building a bypass will simply move the pollution and traffic problems to another part of the Parish
- The bypass will isolate residents, blocking free access to the network of rural paths and lanes in Lynsted and Teynham
- The proposal contravenes the Lynsted Parish Design Statement (adopted as policy by SBC) which identified a 'sensitive edge' south of the A2 London Road with development limited to one building deep
- Diverting traffic away from London Road will adversely affect businesses located there
- At least two of the four 'local green spaces' nominated by the Parish Council last year at the request of SBC would be devastated by the bypass and/or housebuilding
- SBC's own report recommended an "Important Local Countryside Gap" between the parishes of Teynham and Lynsted. The bypass could run right through this gap!
- There are fundamental errors eg. the A2 London Road is not the 'High Street' of Teynham. It forms the border between the parishes of Teynham and Lynsted
- We are already woefully short of health and dental care provision, schools, transport links and other amenities. An increase in housing will add further strain on local resources
- Six weeks is far too short for public consultation - particularly during lockdown when there can be no public meetings or presentations
- The plan runs to an impenetrable 1000 pages. Few local residents have the time or expertise to scrutinise this level of detail
- This undemocratic plan will go straight to the Planning Inspectorate. SBC do not intend to engage with residents who make personal comments
- We believe the Local Plan should be put on hold until the local community can fully engage

We will issue further advice on how to submit your comments to SBC, once we've analysed the plans in detail. In the meantime, please sign this petition drawn up by a local resident:

tinyurl.com/LynstedandTeynham

LYNSTED WITH KINGSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

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