

# Fields earmarked as 'green buffer'

Campaigners have given a cautious welcome to the designation of the Chaucer Fields on the University of Kent Campus as a "green gap".

Residents have been fighting proposals by the university to develop the land and are trying to get it safeguarded as a village green.

But while that application is locked in legal wrangles, the city council agreed to earmark the site as a green buffer – keeping a gap between university buildings and residents' homes.

The move was welcomed by Save Chaucer Fields group chairman David Smith, who said members were surprised but delighted by the recommendation.



**David Smith and the land between Harkness Drive and the University of Kent on which the university wants to build student accommodation**

He said: "We are not celebrating just yet because it will be down to the planning inspector to make the final

decision and I am sure the University of Kent will object."

The village green application for the Chaucer Fields has

stalled because of a legal dispute over how far back campaigners can prove the land was used for recreation.

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