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GREEN SPACE: Chaucer Fields, which protesters say is meant to be left undeveloped according to the terms of its sale

Uni site 'is protected'

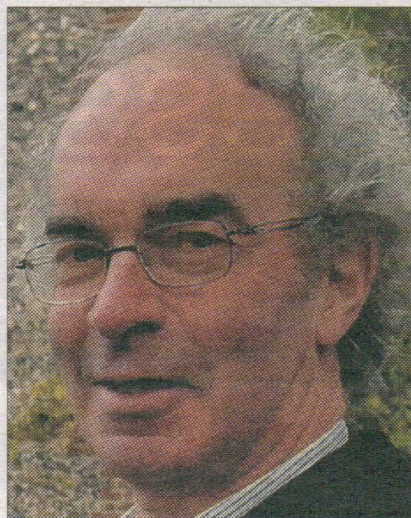
by **Gerry Warren**
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DOCUMENTS dating back to the 1950s, which campaigners say could scupper plans for a development of student flats and a hotel at the University of Kent, have been unearthed.

Liberal Democrat activists working with residents have trawled through old files relating to the compulsory purchase of land for the campus development, which was decided by an inspector at a public inquiry.

They claim the documents reveal the inspector specifically stated that the land, now known as Chaucer Fields, should not be developed and should remain as a green buffer.

James Walker, a lawyer from the St Stephen's area of the city, said: "It is apparent from the report that the inspector only included Chaucer Fields in the CPO in order so it would act as a



PROTESTER: Nick Blake is demanding a public inquiry

green buffer between the planned university and the city.

"His advice was unequivocal and the university were specifically told the campus site should be separated from the city by open space. That open space is Chaucer Fields."

Architectural designer and fellow Lib Dem campaigner Nick Blake, who lives close to the threatened meadows, added: "CPO powers required that the land be used 'in the manner proposed by the plan', and that states on page eight that 'the southern part of the site be retained as open land and playing field'."

The university's response has been to put up signs declaring the land as private property.

The planning application for the proposed Chaucer Fields development has now been submitted to Canterbury City Council.

The deadline for objections closed on April 25 but the plans can still be seen at www.canterbury.gov.uk. Search for reference numbers CA/11/00528 and CA/11/00531

The University of Kent did not want to comment when approached by this paper.

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