

LETTERS to the editor

purpose-built student accommodation and the campus is the best place, but why so near to a housing estate when there is room to integrate such development into existing development to the north of the campus in the vicinity of Parkwood?

The proposal is far too high and there is absolutely no need for conference facilities since these are already provided for in Woolf College.

The other colleges can host and certainly accommodate delegates, especially during the long summer vacation.

Nor is there the need for a hotel in this location, more so as we have the closed Slatter's Hotel in St Margaret's Street.

If there were a need for hotel accommodation surely this would not remain closed.

The Kent University has the most beautiful campus site of any of the post-Robbins 1960s universities, with not only a magnificent view of the city, but also a magnificent programme of landscaping and tree-planting which should not be lost to further development, especially on the southern slopes overlooking the city.

This should not be sacrificed so that a developer, or even the university can make a quick profit; after all, what goes under the concrete-mixer is lost forever.

In any case the feelings of those living nearby the site of this proposed development, and who suffer from student noise as it is, should be taken into consideration.

Hubert Pragnell, Meadow Road, Canterbury.

■ UNIVERSITIES are big players in local government. Their input into the local economy gives them enormous power.



COURTING CONTROVERSY: Oliver Fry and Mike Blisset on the site of Kent University's planned student accommodation

Students use our streets, our pubs and our suburbs as a playground.

Kent University expects enormous patience from the taxpayers of Canterbury. What then are its responsibilities to us?

There are few sites in the whole world that equal the beauty of the view of Canterbury and its cathedral from the university. It belongs to us all.

These plans degrade it. Once destroyed, this view can never be replaced.

Professor Scase has suggested a practical alternative for the residential blocks, by placing them in Wincheap which would regenerate the area ('Student Village' Answer To Nightmare, Opinion, Letters, December 9).

If this idea does not appeal, Kent University has plenty of alternative space.

As for the proposal to build a hotel on this site, I suspect that Kent University hopes to make a fast buck by selling our world heritage view to tourists, while the citizens of Canterbury are left to lament the development of the Chaucer Fields for

the rest of their lives.

Who will call the shots in this assault on the world heritage of Canterbury, town or gown?

Angela Cullen, Hackington Road, Tyler Hill, Canterbury.

■ PROFESSOR Scase reminds us of the growing student crisis causing stress and depression for significant people in the community, rubbish and gardens not being properly attended to, congested streets of parked cars, some landlords just in it for the money, inflated house prices with young families forced out of Canterbury, closed community centres, the sheer size of student numbers in relation to the size of the population and the major sociological impact.

He paints not a very pleasant picture.

His solution is to use the Wincheap industrial estate to accommodate possibly thousands of students in what one can only describe as the worst congested area in Canterbury, notably the Reims Way, Wincheap and the roundabout.

The problem highlighted in Helly Langley's correspondence with students walking to and from the town via Salisbury Road will continue (£60m University Plan Is Wrong In So Many Ways, Letters, December 9).

However, a development at Wincheap will give rise to similar complaints from residents in Castle and Stour Street

Has the professor considered how students will travel to and from the university? To that, there is only one answer with a continual stream of buses contributing to even more traffic jams and pollution.

No, the only realistic solution is to provide the right kind of accommodation and within the

shortest possible distance from the university, better for students and easier for Canterbury.

Roy Sirett, Chestfield Road, Whitstable.

Site not appropriate for student accommodation

FROM what I have seen from the community newsletter distributed by Kent University, it seems to me that their plans for 800 student rooms, a hotel and conference centre totally inappropriate for this site which is designated as green landscape as part of the wedge between the city and university (Hundreds More Students Right On Our Doorstep, Kentish Gazette, December 9).

Few will deny the need for more