

Save our space to walk, play, lounge and dream

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PROTESTERS packed a church hall in Canterbury on Saturday as part of the fight to stop Kent University building on a field between the campus and the city.

They were helping to launch a village green application to save the university's Canterbury-facing slopes from being developed for flats for 800 students, a hotel and conference centre.

Protesters turned up at St Dunstan's Church Hall where they were asked to provide a statement on why they used and valued the slopes and felt they should be protected.

Campaigner Ursula Harris said residents and students were trying to protect a vital recreational space and wildlife habitat.

"For decades, even centuries, all have been free to enjoy dog walking, playing, lounging about, running, sledging, dreaming and meditating there and, until recently, have had faith in the understanding that this land would remain untouched by development," she said.

"The Commons Act 2006 specifies that anyone can apply to have land registered as a green if it has been used by local peo-



Visitors to the open meeting about the proposed Chaucer Fields development at St Dunstan's Church Hall

Picture: Chris Davey PD1823446 See other pictures of this event and buy this photo at kentonline.co.uk

ple for recreation 'as of right,' ie without permission, force or secrecy, for at least 20 years."

Campaigners hope that statements provided by people at Saturday's event will help to provide the evidence to show this.

Mrs Harris said: "We had a constant flow of people in the

hall and I was pleased with the turnout."

University estates bosses argue that there is now no suitable alternative for the scale of the £60 million development than the Chaucer Fields.

It is believed that they will put in a planning application for the

site at the end of this month or in April.

Those who could not attend Saturday's event but who would like to make a statement may do so by going to the website at www.savechaucerfields.com or by emailing CFvillagegreen@yahoo.co.uk