

# Hundreds more students right on our doorsteps

## EXCLUSIVE

by Gerry Warren

gwarren@thekmgroupp.co.uk

RESIDENTS are joining forces to fight plans to develop a meadow near their homes with an 800-bed student hall of residence and hotel for Kent University.

Most affected by the £60 million scheme will be those living in Harkness Drive, Canterbury, and the surrounding roads who say the four-storey development will overshadow their homes.

Last night (Wednesday) the St Michael's Road Residents Association was due to meet to discuss formulating a plan of action against the development.

Chairman Terry Westgate said: "It's going to have quite a serious impact on our lives because of how close it is.

extra 800 students is one of our major concerns. Our view is that it is simply in the wrong place."

Residents had hoped to get more answers at an exhibition of the plans, at the St Mary Breddin church hall last Saturday but it was cancelled because of the weather and will be in January.

Among the objectors is photographer Mike Blissett, of Durnford Close, who said: "I'm truly worried the university has not looked at all the options and do not appreciate the impact the development will have, not only on the landscape, but such a quiet part of Canterbury.

"I believe the university see themselves as good neighbours and I am sure it will help all concerned if we can work together."

Neighbour Oliver Fry added: "These plans have far wider implications for Canterbury.

Another resident Andrew Trott, also of Harkness Drive, questioned the university's consultation process and said it needed to consider the environmental consequences of the planned development.

He added: "Canterbury is supposed to be a cathedral city with

