

'Overseas scholars will be distributed throughout campus'

WE PUT the following questions to the University of Kent which residents have raised with the Gazette as their principle concerns.

Q1: Why is the new development so far away from the main campus and so close (60 metres) to the residential homes? Was there no available/suitable site nearer - Park Wood, for example.

ANSWER: The Chaucer Fields site was identified following a selection process that took into account a range of physical, environmental, social and commercial factors.

Despite its relative size there are only limited opportunities for new development within the campus. A significant factor is its location close to the Canterbury Innovation Centre.

Positioning of the proposed scheme was carefully considered to ensure the development maximises screening from existing trees and avoids removal of woodland. The proposals include a buffer zone of trees between the student and private residences. Most of the existing trees will be retained and others will be planted.

Q2: It is being suggested that the new accommodation will largely be for foreign students who prefer to live on campus throughout their courses. Is that true?

ANSWER: The university currently houses a smaller proportion of its students than other similar universities. The new accommodation goes some way towards rectifying

that situation. It will also allow the university to accommodate more of its overseas students, but they will be distributed throughout the university's accommodation, and not concentrated in any one particular area.

Q3: If so how will that help the HMO problem in Canterbury?

ANSWER: Current trends show that student numbers in Canterbury are expected to remain constant. The university wishes to accommodate more students on campus to relieve some of the pressure on homes in the city.

New student accommodation will reduce the amount of accommodation required by both international and British students resulting in more private rented accommodation in the city.