

# LETTERS to the editor

## University should develop a brownfield site

I AM writing to express our concern that the University of Kent is increasingly moving away from protecting Canterbury's heritage and working with residents.

Their plans to build high-rise blocks of flats for more than 750 students and a hotel, beside family housing, will destroy an essential green space, more than 100 mature trees and more than 500m of hedges.

This does not protect Canterbury's heritage, wildlife and views of the city.

The area is a great example of community cohesion with local residents and students using the area for recreation purposes.

Perhaps if the university had limited land we would understand their plans, but they own many, many acres.

They have a number of brownfield sites they could develop in a sensible manner.

For example they are moving the nursery down to a new site beside Beverly Farm.

The existing nursery location is an ideal location for student flats, beside the shops and Students Union.

The university has a green impact project which offers 'a practical opportunity to embed good environmental and ethical practices in their everyday work'.

Surely building on this green site goes against this very aim.

There are also questions how many students can afford the proposed rent for new university accommodation of £135 a week, such as the new 495 flats being finished this summer.

We hope the university reconsiders their plans, uses their brownfield sites and looks at the affordability for students.

*Mrs U. Harris, Harkness Drive, Canterbury*

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