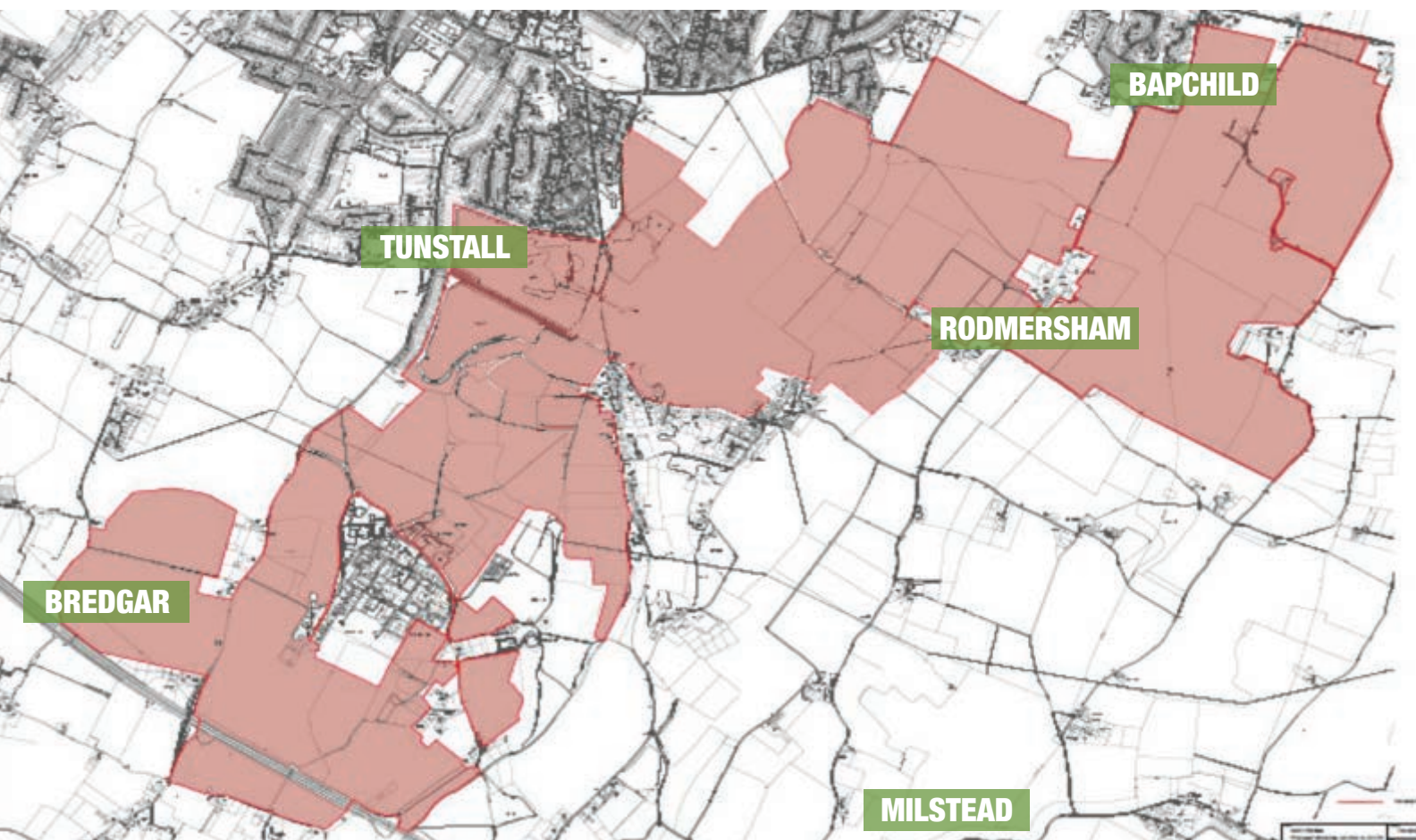


The Parishes Opposition Group

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO SAVE SITTINGBOURNE AND ITS VILLAGES FROM EXCESSIVE AND UNNECESSARY DEVELOPMENT!

Over 585 hectares of prime agricultural land, countryside and woodland identified by Quinn Estates and local landowners for mixed-use development to create:

- Up to 11,250 houses to create 'Highsted Park'
 - New 'business park' at Dully/Teynham
- A bypass to link A2 to M2 via Kent Science Park



Source: "Highsted Park" - Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report - Quinn Estates December 2017

The Five Parishes' Opposition Group (5POG) is a group set up by the Parish Councils of Bapchild, Bredgar, Milstead, Rodmersham (Highsted) and Tunstall to protect the countryside from the impact of excessive development.

HOW TO HELP NOW


Please update the KMBRCA website before Quinn's begin their environmental research. When a developer is interested in a site, they undertake a 'desk top survey' before anything else. They contact the Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre (KMBRC) to see if any records exist about the flora and fauna on the proposed site. If nothing has been recorded to be "flagged up", little can hinder the developer's plans. Quinn's will employ ecologists to research the proposed site but we know hedgerow, trees and habitats are already being disturbed or removed and forcing wildlife elsewhere.

The plans threaten the integrity of the Kent Wildlife Trust Reserve at Cromers Wood and The Site of Nature Conservation Interest at Highsted Quarries, and across the whole rural area. Rare wild flowers and plants, earwigs, bats, dormice, badgers and birds of prey all need protection. The RSPB consider the following some of their highest conservation priorities: bullfinch, crane, cuckoo, grey wagtail, house sparrow, lapwing, lesser spotted woodpecker, nightingale, redwing, song thrush and turtle dove.

Please note the nature you see now, or have in the past, whether it be around your garden, your parish and on walks within the proposed development area. The most efficient way to do this is by visiting the KMBRC website - www.kmbrc.org.uk - and using the forms shown under 'Recording & Support'. If you have no Internet access, please participate by using the form below and posting it to an address shown.

Your help now is vital. There is just enough time to update the KMBRC website.

----- Alternatively cut here, complete and post -----

Name				Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre Recording Form	
Address / Phone					
Date	Location <small>name of farm, road, etc. / site description etc.</small>	*Grid Ref. of record	Species recorded and number	Sex / Age	**Comments <small>flowering, nest, killed by cat, feeding on nuts, etc.</small>
01/01/08	A20 by Squirrel Wood	T Q 6 5 4 3 2 1	Fox	1 Adult	Road kill

Please complete and return to either: KMBRC, Brogdale Farm, Brogdale Road, Faversham, ME13 8XZ or Mrs Lena Jordan, FPOG Clerk, Waterside, Highsted Valley, Nr Sittingbourne, ME9 0AD

THE 5POG CAMPAIGN

Quinn Estates have not yet submitted a planning application. From past experience, it is likely to be submitted during a holiday period (possibly summer 2018). In the meantime, 5POG are speaking to parties for advice and guidance.

STAY INFORMED*

To be updated automatically by 5POG about these proposals and action required, you need to register your e-mail address. This is the most efficient and cost-effective way of communicating for 5POG. Your details will not be shared with any other parties.

Please register at: www.fiveparishes.org.uk

TO OFFER SPECIALIST HELP*

5POG would be grateful to hear from anybody with knowledge and expertise in the following areas:

- Environment
- Ecology
- Law
- Planning
- Highways
- Media/PR

If you can help in any way, please e-mail your details to: info@fiveparishes.org.uk

TO DONATE TO THE 5POG FIGHTING FUND*

5POG are currently identifying specialist consultants who can assist with aspects of the planning process, including impact studies on local services, resources, environment and landscape.

Donations to the 5POG Fighting Fund will be most gratefully received. Payments can be made online to:

5POG Fighting Fund Sort code: **60-19-25** Account No: **28536576**

If you require a receipt for your donation, please use your surname as the payment reference and advise the 5POG clerk by e-mail of your payment at: info@fiveparishes.org.uk

Any personal data collected by 5POG will not be used for anything else or passed to a third party.

----- cut here, complete and post -----

*FORM FOR THOSE WITHOUT INTERNET/E-MAIL ACCESS

- Please post 5POG updates to the name and address below.
- Please find attached a cheque for £..... (cheque made payable to 'Five Parishes' Fighting Fund')

I can advise on this issue Environment Ecology Law Planning Highways Media/PR

Name:

Address:

.....Postcode:

Please post to: Mrs Lena Jordan, FPOG Clerk, Waterside, Highsted Valley, Nr Sittingbourne, ME9 0AD

DEAR RESIDENT

South Sittingbourne has been identified for mass expansion by Quinn Estates, with over 11,000 new houses proposed for the local area and Swale's countryside sacrificed for a possible bypass. Quinn Estates are behind the regeneration of Sittingbourne and the threat of 600+ new houses in the village of Borden. Quinn's have now earmarked 585 hectares of agricultural land, woodland and countryside for destruction. That's around the size of five O2 Arenas, six Bluewater Shopping Centres or 11 roofs of Wembley Stadium.



5POG is seeking your support. We face a developer with money and resources who wants to succeed in providing the most catastrophic building venture for Swale. In addition, there are Councillors who view this as an opportunity not a threat and who wish to pursue possible strategic changes to local planning policy.

Similar proposals threatened us in 2003. If you're new to the area, the Swale Local Plan, setting out planning for the future, was under review and developers were seizing the opportunity to include new sites for housing in the

document. Thousands of new houses were already under construction at Sheppey, Iwade and Senora Fields and those at Eden Park were yet to be built. At the same time, Sittingbourne Research Centre in Tunstall rebranded to 'Kent Science Park' (KSP) and wanted to expand beyond its boundary to "sustain its future at the forefront of research and development in the UK". KSP's growth plans also included 2 local landowners providing fields for 5,000 new houses which, in turn, would fund the construction of an M2-A2 bypass. Under the banner, "Sittingbourne Urban Extension", KSP printed a map of housing for south Sittingbourne and a bypass from the A2 at Dully/Bapchild, across Rodmersham to a new junction at Cromers Road and Stockers Hill. Through Highsted Valley and Tunstall to the KSP, the bypass would form a new M2 junction between Milstead and Bredgar. These proposals resulted in the most-affected villages forming 'The 5 Parishes Opposition Group' (5POG).

Support from the people of Swale was overwhelming. Residents opposed the KSP's 'opportunistic developer' having housing and a bypass included in the revised Local Plan. Donations to a 'Fighting Fund' paid for a planning consultant, over 3,000 people signed a petition and more than 450 joined a protest march in Sittingbourne High Street. The local press gave 5POG generous coverage and together with Parish Councils, Borough Councillors and the previous MP, FPOG fought a 7-year campaign.

The KSP's proposals were not included in the Swale Local Plan which was adopted in July 2017. This approved current Local Plan took 10 years and nearly £1million of taxpayers' money to produce. It permits development of 776 new dwellings per year (13,192 during the Plan period 2017 - 2031) with no significant development south of Sittingbourne.

These new proposals – 11,250 houses over 11,500 acres – will likely form a planning application despite the Local Plan having been adopted. Now, a decision made at a meeting of Swale Borough Council's 'Local Framework Committee', has decided to pursue not just a *review* of the Local Plan (as required by the Planning Inspector) but to produce an entirely *new* Local Plan which could provide Quinn Estates and some Borough Councillors with the opportunity to include:

- "New settlements" or a "Garden City" in a revised Local Plan, permitting over 10,000 dwellings to be built in south Sittingbourne.
- Increase Swale's housing provision from 13,192 to over 30,000 dwellings, a number vastly exceeding the current target and the Government's new target.

Could Swale sustain approximately 70,000 more residents, that's almost the population of Ashford?

Please register at our website (or complete the Form overleaf) to learn how to support our work, to stay updated on developments and to help fund consultants to ensure residents' concerns are heard.

Monique Bonney
Chairman of 5POG
www.fiveparishes.org.uk

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