

Another 2,500 homes will totally change our village

by Alex Claridge

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RESIDENTS fear the character of Thanington could be completely transformed if 2,500 homes are built on farmland in the parish.

Under pressure from the Government to build homes, the council has identified fields bounded by Cockerling Road on one side and New House Lane on the other as a potential site for new homes.

But the parish council fears any such housing development will alter the character of the area, create pressure on schools and services and increase traffic on already congested roads.

Parish clerk Roger Cheeseworth said: "We will lose our distinctiveness as an area. This development will be like another small town welded on to Canterbury."

The city council has been asked to find room for an additional 4,016 homes in the district by 2026.

Sites up for consideration include off the Nackington and New Dover Roads, former col-

liery land at Hersden and Thanington, which could see 2,500 of the target needed.

But Mr Cheeseworth believes Thanington would be unable to cope with that many new homes, adding it could increase the population by 200 per cent.

He said: "At a conservative estimate that would represent some 7,000 to 8,000 new residents yet there is no suggestion of facilities for them.

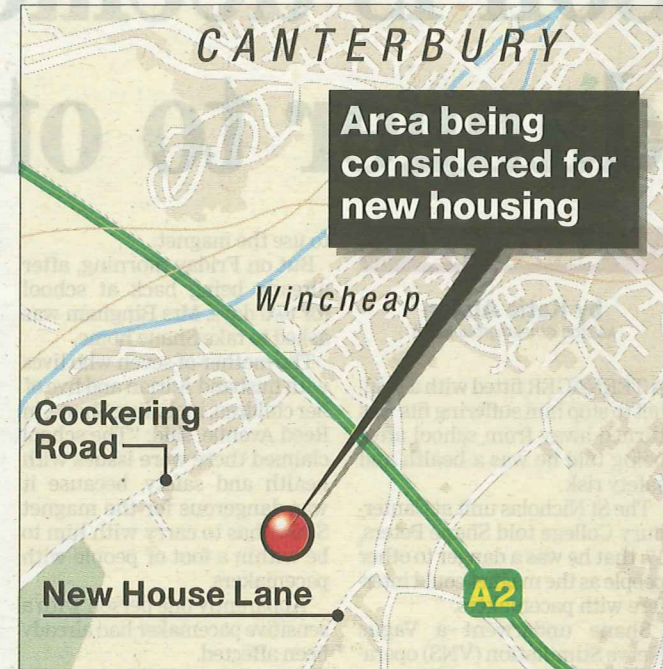
"There will be no football pitch, no tennis courts, swimming pool, no bowling green, no health centre, no village hall – just houses."

Unhappy

Tony Austin, the city council's member for housing, says the Thanington idea is one of a number being considered for the Local Development Framework, which will shape the long-term future of the district.

He said: "Nothing has so far been crystallised and we are consulting people at the moment with more consultation planned for the future.

"I can understand why the people of Thanington would



be unhappy, but none of these ideas have yet become preferred options yet. It's all very early days and we are keen to hear what people have to say."

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