

## **Kent International Gateway Planning Application**

**The Parish Council is opposed to this planning application and has initiated the creation of a Joint Parish Group, representing a number of parish councils in the area to look and respond to the planning application.**

**We are currently considering our opposition to the application and urge all residents to consider the proposals and make their representations and comments to Maidstone Borough Council as soon as possible.**

**The Planning application is available to view on the Maidstone Digital Website, the details of which are outlined below:**

### **Kent International Gateway**

(from MBC website)

KIG - Kent International Gateway Ltd - has submitted a planning application to Maidstone Borough Council as the Local Planning Authority.

It is an **outline** planning application for a rail/road freight interchange incorporating buildings for warehousing and distribution and offices, research and development and light industrial units. It includes earthworks, acoustic measures, retaining walls, access works with internal roads and bridges.

An Environmental Statement accompanied the application.

The site is 112.3 hectares in area. Thurnham Lane is at the west and Junction 8 of the M20 is at the east. The site is bounded on the north by the M20 motorway and in the south by the railway line in Bearsted.

The Borough Council will consult widely on the application and consider the views of local people and other key consultees.

It will be sending letters to the occupiers of properties in Bearsted Parish to the north of the A20, some areas of Bearsted and Downswood to the south of Ashford Road as well as properties in the villages of Hollingbourne and Thurnham. In addition over 40 Site Notices will be erected and everyone is urged to give their comments on the application.

The Borough Councils Planning Committee will determine the planning application unless the applicant appeals because the council hasn't decided the application within 16 weeks or it is 'called in' by the Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government. If the Planning Committee refuses the application the applicant can appeal to the Secretary of State.

### **Kent International Gateway**

#### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Question - Where can I see the application?**

**Answer -** The application will be at our offices at – 5-11 London Road, 13 Tonbridge Road and The Town Hall, Maidstone. Parish Councils will have copies and it is on our website <http://www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk/>.

### **Question - How long will I have to object or comment?**

Answer - The council has 16 weeks to consider the application. By the 31 October we will write to neighbours, parish councils and others asking for comments within three weeks but we will consider all comments right up to the date of decision.

### **Question - How will people get to know about the application?**

Answer – The Borough Council will:

- write to up to 3,000 people who live near to the site.
- put up about 40 notices in the areas near to the application site.
- hold meetings with representatives of parish councils and interest groups.
- inform Maidstone Borough Council and local KCC councillors.
- work with newspapers, radio and tv to publicise the application.
- send details to libraries.
- send the application to parish councils.

### **Question - How can I comment or object?**

Answer - Everyone can comment:

- in writing to Rob Jarman, 13 Tonbridge Road, Maidstone, Kent ME16 8HG
- by email to [KIGcomments@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:KIGcomments@maidstone.gov.uk)

## **Have your say on Kent International Gateway** (information from KCC)

Plans for a huge freight depot in the Kent countryside near Bearsted will be the hot topic for the next meeting of Kent County Council's Maidstone Local Board.

The meeting, at 7pm on Friday 30 November at the Ramada Hotel near Hollingbourne, focuses on the planning application that has recently been submitted for the 112-hectare development between Bearsted village and junction eight of the M20 – consisting of office space, freight railway siding and warehousing.

Hundreds of people turned up to a public meeting in July to voice their concerns at the proposals, which many believe would have a major detrimental impact on some of the county's most beautiful countryside.

Maidstone Local Board Chairman Paulina Stockell said:

“Now Kent International Gateway has submitted its planning application, it is important that we have a public meeting to discuss the detail – some of which has changed since the public exhibition held earlier this year.

“This is the largest planning application ever to come before Maidstone Borough Council and I urge local people and fellow councillors to come along and have their say.”

Kent County Council Leader Paul Carter said:

“I am personally totally opposed to this planning application and will do all I can to see this application refused.”

Other contributors on the night include Faversham and Mid Kent MP Hugh Robertson, Chairman of English Heritage Lord Bruce-Lockhart, Director of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England Dr

Hilary Newport, Maidstone Borough Council Leader Fran Wilson, Chairman of STOPKIG Richard Horton and the Chairman of Bearsted and Thurnham Society Brian Clifford.

Representatives from local parish councils will also be present to speak on this issue, which will have a significant impact on their parishes in the future.

KCC has also invited Kent International Gateway to have a spokesman at the meeting to outline their proposals.

There is an opportunity for an informal chat with KCC Members from 6.30pm before the meeting starts at 7pm. For more information, please contact Loic Flory, Maidstone Community Liaison Manager, on 01622 694217 or email [loic.flory@kent.gov.uk](mailto:loic.flory@kent.gov.uk)