

To Damian Green MP
conservatives@hardyhouse.freeserve.co.uk

From Kerry Bethel
Bridge Street Wye

19th December 2005

Dear Mr Green

Since the announcement of Imperials plans for Wye I have spoken with upwards of 50 fellow villagers and all without exception have voiced firstly their horror at the outline and magnitude of the proposals and secondly great surprise and disappointment at the apparent acceptance by our elected representatives that it should be welcomed by them.

Both our Borough councillor Ian Cooling, and KCC councillor Charles Findlay represent two of the signatories of the concordant and you have been quoted as saying that the people of Wye will have to come to terms with it.

We are talking about a fanciful attempt to coerce planning permission on a massive scale on agricultural land in an Area of Outstanding Beauty that would completely engulf the village. To imagine that a development on this scale would not destroy the local environment or the historic character of Wye is completely unrealistic.

It is accepted that Ashford's population growth must be accompanied with employment opportunities but there are a number of other areas within the Borough close to transport links that would be infinitely preferable to the beautiful and protected Wye countryside. One of the obvious areas would be between Evedgate and the Electricity Station between the A20 and M20, which would be close to the proposed 10a junction.

Imperial do not seem interested in retaining an education presence in Wye so every effort should be made to find another academic body to take the college over. If this is not possible then there would be wide interest for institutional or commercial uses.

If this proposal looks likely to go further the village and its supporters (with or without its elected representatives) will fight it tooth and nail and will resist the loss of even one acre of green land.

Regards

Mr Kerry Bethel