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To: paul.carter@kent.gov.uk
Subject: Wye Science Park
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Dear Mr Carter

I am very concerned about the totally inappropriate scale of the proposed science park development at Wye. In particular by the proposed eastern access to Wye from Junction 10a of the M20 - do you really want to turn the Pilgrims' Way into a three lane motorway? But seriously, while there are some potentially valid components to Imperial's vision for a research led science centre, the scale is such that it threatens to destroy the very characteristics (environmental, landscape and social) that make Wye and its surroundings such a special part of rural Kent.

I am not surprised at the interpretation of many local residents, that the science park at Wye scenario has been devised by Imperial primarily to allow them to realise the capital tied up in the large agricultural estate that goes with Wye College: something that would not have been permitted were the science park to be sited at a more appropriate location.

It is a red herring to suggest that the proposed science park builds on the academic skills or facilities that currently exist at Wye. Rather it is intended to "reinvent Wye" by buying-in new built facilities, new professional researchers and support staff (in completely new thematic areas) and new transport infrastructure. The only advantage of the Wye site (to Imperial) is the potential to convert agricultural land (in which Imperial are no longer interested) into investment capital.

The institutional arrogance displayed by Imperial in its dealings with the local residents during the process to date, has been astounding. I was most surprised to see that you, as Conservative leader of KCC have allowed yourself to be viewed as "in bed with" the proposers of this very ill considered scheme. Your protestations that this is simply the start of a consultation process cut no ice. The recent Withersdane meeting demonstrated no attempt by Imperial to consult local residents, the presentation being a simple statement of the scale of Imperial's proposals whilst hiding the detail under the veil of supposed participatory process.

I remain very concerned

Best regards
Mike Holland

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