

20<sup>th</sup> October 2026

Dear County Councillor,

**Kent Mineral Sites Plan – please help bring this decision back to Full Council**

**We are asking you to support bringing the Kent Mineral Sites Plan back to Full Council for a fresh decision before it is submitted for examination.**

The Plan threatens 41 hectares of ancient woodland at Oaken Wood. We believe councillors should have the opportunity to consider the public's objections, the Council's response and the alternatives before deciding whether the Plan should go ahead.

On Friday 16 October, CPRE Kent filed a claim for judicial review and applied for an interim injunction to prevent the Plan being submitted without this happening. We believe the law requires consultation responses to be considered by Full Council before submission. KCC officers disagree, though they accept that the Country's top planning judge restrained Oxford City Council from submitting its plan for the same reason, finding it was at least arguably unlawful not to take the matter back to Councillors.

**We would much rather resolve this through councillors than through the courts.** Bringing the decision back would demonstrate that the public has been listened to and could avoid further legal costs and uncertainty.

Importantly, the Inspector's role is to assess whether the Plan meets the required legal and planning tests. But as an elected councillor, you have a wider choice. You can look again at the alternatives identified by CPRE Kent and others, including options that would avoid the loss of ancient woodland.

The purpose of this letter, however, is not to seek your support for any particular alternative. **We are simply asking you to support bringing the Plan back to Full Council**, so councillors can consider the consultation responses and take a fresh, informed decision before it is sent for examination.

The Full Council meeting on 5 November provides an opportunity to do this.

Under KCC's Constitution, a political group can submit a motion by **5pm on 22 October** (paragraph 14.34). Reversing July's resolution would normally require the support of 22 councillors (paragraph 14.70(a)), subject to the other constitutional requirements. An extraordinary meeting may also be possible.

**Please raise this urgently with your Group Leader and Democratic Services and let us know whether you would support bringing the decision back to Full Council.**

There is still time for KCC to put this right without further court proceedings.

Yours sincerely,

**Andrea Griffiths**  
Director, CPRE Kent

The Kent branch of the Campaign to protect Rural England exists to protect the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of the Kent countryside

**CPRE Kent Queen's Head House, Ashford Road, Charing, Kent TN27 0AD**  
**[www.cprekent.org.uk](http://www.cprekent.org.uk) Phone 01233 714540 Email [planning@cprekent.org.uk](mailto:planning@cprekent.org.uk)**