

Following attending the hearing on November 12 I would like to bring your attention to some concerns I have around risk of flooding in Sandwich. Sandwich is a low lying town and has a 1-20 risk of flood from the river Stour every year when there is a particularly high spring tide. The Environment Agency has been instrumental in developing a multi million pound flood defence for the town (£24M) around 10 years ago. This is still not able to protect the town completely although has reduced risk. In 2013 a significantly high tide caused severe flooding of approx 1.4 metres with damage to 200 homes, 90 businesses and the cause of uprooted trees and destruction to local parks and nature reserves. My concern is that a development such as this will cause severe run off and dispersal of water saturation to the rivers with risk of flood defences in Sandwich being breached. It is an unfair risk and concern to residents of Sandwich to live with this risk to their homes, businesses and indeed lives. The environment Agency advise that caution is needed as just 6 inches of fast running water can knock people off their feet, let alone the disaster of metres of free, unstoppable water filling the streets of Sandwich. My concern is so great I felt I had to bring this to your attention. Thank you.