

**APPLICATION: TM/20/02749/OA**

**PROPOSAL: Outline application: Erection of up to 330 dwellings (including 40% affordable homes), together with associated open space, play areas, and landscaping (including details of access)**

**LOCATION: Land South of Barming Station and East of Hermitage Lane, Aylesford**

The Aylesford Parish Council strongly objects to the above application on the following grounds:-

- (A) This site is not allocated to housing within the existing or draft Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Local Plan and therefore should be refused on the grounds that it is not included in either of these local plans.
- (B) There is a need to maintain and preserve what remains of the Mid Kent Strategic Gap separating the built-up areas of the Medway Gap and Maidstone. This development destroys what is left of this very important green lung between these built-up areas. The retention of this gap is essential in order to prevent one extremely long urban sprawl.
- (C) Hermitage Lane with all the existing developments either built, in the process of being built or sites for which planning permission has been given means that Hermitage Lane is already completely over developed with new housing and is not capable of taking any more new housing
- (D) This development will only increase further the traffic movements along the already heavily congested Hermitage Lane and the already over capacity A20, both of which are not capable of taking the existing levels of traffic for those developments already completed. This position will already be made worse by the already approved developments such as the 890 dwelling development at the northern end of Hermitage Lane let alone this additional development. This means that this road will become a traffic congestion nightmare particularly as it acts as the main access point to Maidstone Hospital which has already seen difficulties for ambulances seeking to access Maidstone Hospital.