

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

25 OCTOBER 2011

REFERENCE FROM COUNCIL

**1. PETITION CALLING UPON THE COUNCIL TO HELP PROTECT THE OPEN
COUNTRYSIDE AROUND WIERTON, CHART SUTTON, BOUGHTON
MONCHELSEA AND THE GREENSAND WAY**

1.1 At the meeting of the Council held on 21 September 2011, Mr Jonathan Gershon presented a petition in the following terms:-

We the undersigned call upon Maidstone Borough Council to maintain and secure the beauty, tranquillity and rural character of the unique areas of Wierton, Chart Sutton, Boughton Monchelsea and the Greensand Ridge. In order to halt the destruction of the rural landscape, we demand that:-

1. The Greensand Ridge and the Greensand Way are protected from development. That the access to and rural nature of the walk, and views across and from the Weald are maintained.
2. Any planning development is in keeping with the open countryside.
3. Any development at Wierton Place is in keeping with the scale, appearance and character of the Grade 2 designation, involves the restoration of the Manor House and Greenhouse and is restricted to those buildings currently used as residential.
4. Maidstone Borough Council co-ordinate with Kent County Council and other agencies to act swiftly to enforce established planning policies in dealing with all unlawful developments.

1.2 The Council agreed that the petition be referred to the Cabinet (to be considered as a representation on the Core Strategy), the Planning Committee (in so far as it relates to "live" planning applications and enforcement generally) and the Regeneration and Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee (to consider the policy implications and make recommendations to the Cabinet as appropriate).

1.3 **RECOMMENDED: That the Regeneration and Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the policy implications arising from the petition and make recommendations to the Cabinet as appropriate.**