

03.2

Study Figure 3 in the resources booklet, 'Different perspectives on the Tudeley Village development'.

The proposal to build the village was dropped in December 2023. Do you think this was the correct decision?

Yes No

Tick (✓) the box to show your choice.

Use evidence from the resource booklet and your own understanding to explain your answer.

[9 marks]
[+3 SPaG]

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I strongly believe that it was the correct decision not to go ahead with the development for a number of reasons. Firstly, the proposed development of Tudley will simply take too long to create. As shown in the Save Capel reference, it will take 30 years to complete. This means that the area will have construction traffic for a third of a lifetime and will contribute to pollution from lorries and noise from building work. Traffic will increase because of this which is especially negative as the area is very close to an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). While it could be viewed that the construction will bring jobs, the simple fact of the matter is only 2800 homes will be built in this time. This is a tiny amount compared to the 300,000 a year new home target and because of this, it was the right decision not to ruin the environment for this relatively small number of houses.

However, others may disagree by suggesting that the town plan showed it had sustainable solutions such as green space, building preservation and a new train station included. While the train station would be useful, especially in conjunction with the planned electric car charging points, the issue again is the timescale. The station wouldn't be completed until the first 1900 homes are built – which doesn't have a timeframe. It is likely that Tudley will become a commuter settlement as there are career opportunities nearby in London and Tonbridge. But with a lack of public transport initially, the congestion on the already stretched roads will increase further thus causing more pollution. This again clearly shows that it was the correct decision not to go ahead.

Overall, I appreciate what Tudley was trying to do by becoming a sustainable town. It has good ideas such as public transport networking, access to green space, affordable housing and work opportunities within the site. But the simple fact of the matter is this development was planned to be built in an inappropriate location. The lengthy construction would not only upset local people but also the flora (plants) and fauna (animals) of the High Weald for just 2800 homes. As a result of this, it wouldn't be able to truly say it is sustainable. Yes it may eventually meet social and economic needs but at a cost to the environment. Therefore, I strongly believe it was the right decision to cancel the project.