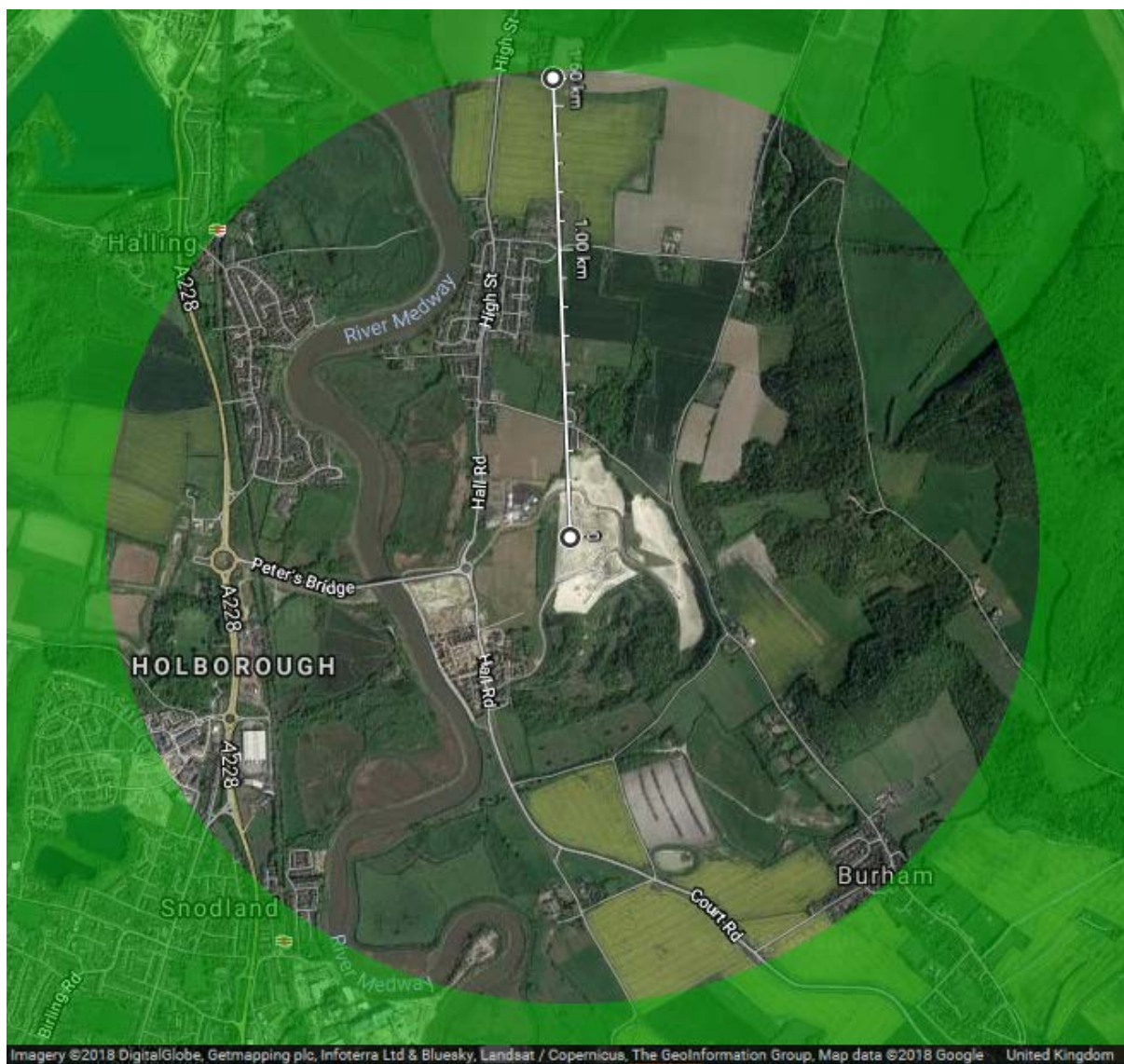


Dear Stephen Ingram,

Thank you for your letter inviting the Medway Health and Wellbeing Board to comment on the proposal to conduct a controlled locality determination regarding pharmacy services in Wouldham, Kent.

The development at Peter's Village is across the river from Medway. The area is surrounded by farmland, and part of the land is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) managed in partnership with Natural England and Kent Wildlife Trust. A map of the area that is within 1.6 Km of the centre of Peter's Village, shows that it mostly consists of green, rural areas:



As it is a new development it is not possible to describe the community or employment patterns of the residents, however, the fact that it is rural in nature is made explicit in the name: Peter's Village.

Transportation to the area consists of a bridge across the Medway and an additional

road into and out of each side of the village (Hall Road). Regular public transport is limited to a bus that comes once an hour between Maidstone and Chatham along this road, and there is no public transport link across the bridge to the village of Halling.

The village of Halling is served by a dispensing GP practice. This practice is itself in a rural area and lies within 1.6 Km of Peter's Village, and it is likely that many of the patients registered with the practice also reside within 1.6 Km of Peter's Village. If Peter's Village is determined to no longer be a controlled locality it will mean that a large number of patients that currently are able to be dispensed for by their GP will no longer be able to. The single bridge across the river Medway with no public transport linking Halling to Peter's Village provides inadequate access for many people in the Halling area. We firmly believe this proposal has the potential to impact on the continuity of care provided to local people by this dispensing GP practice.

It is the opinion of the Medway Health and Wellbeing Board that this area is still rural in nature.