

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to comment on the above consultation concerning planning for development of Bodkin Farm, Chestfield, however my comments apply equally to all proposals for development along the Thanet Way 'corridor', including the plot opposite the current site at Whitstable Heights, the building next to Harrier Lodge, Brooklands Farm and Grasmere Meadows.

The frenetic scramble to throw up as many properties as possible in pursuit of dubious targets is unsustainable in this town. We already suffer from lack of basic infrastructure: Whitstable Medical Practice cannot offer enough face-to-face appointments with doctors, there are no plans to build a new hospital or to upgrade either QEQM in Margate or The William Harvey Hospital in Ashford and five pharmacies in the town closed suddenly last year. There is a chronic lack of dental practices, especially those taking NHS patients.

The road system is completely inadequate. The 'old' Thanet Way, being the main artery east/west for local traffic, is already struggling to cope with the weight (literally!) of traffic and the feeder roads into the town centre, Borstal Hill, Milstrood Road and Swalecliffe Road, are frequently badly congested leading to other, smaller roads turning into rat-runs. Those of us living in Seasalter and the west of town are often effectively cut off due to road works, closures or congestion at the slip road off the Thanet Way or at the Long Reach roundabout.

Parking in the town is inadequate and now hideously expensive. The plans for a park & ride at Benacre are at best vague, at worst will only add to the traffic and parking problems. Given that most households now have a minimum of two or three cars, including works vehicles which are parked on the road, the increase in traffic will be considerable.

I have been assured that the social housing included in these plans is for families who have 'a local interest'. This is completely untrue. Local authorities in London are being allowed to purchase these properties, in order to re-locate people from their areas; these people have no link to this town and have not even visited. Very few, if any, of the new properties will be bought by local people.

I have no doubt that I will be dismissed as a NIMBY but if being concerned about the rapid and wanton erosion of the history and heritage of the town where I was born, concern for the disappearance of green space due to the greed of the developers and construction industry and the destruction of quality of life for myself, my family and others is nimbyism, so be it.

We are being marched rapidly towards a North Kent conurbation and Canterbury City Council show no intention of attempting to slow, or halt, the process.

Yours in despair,

Debbie Waters