

## Objections to Brooklands Farm Development

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To: Consultations <Consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

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I wish to register my objection to the proposed development at Brooklands Farm for the following reasons.

1. More housing is not needed in this area. Many properties at Grasmere remain unsold. Bellway Homes have put on hold plans for the second phase of a large development to the East of Chestfield because they cannot sell the homes in Phase I. Whilst there is some demand for social housing in the area, recent developments have seen this sold to London boroughs, which then move some of their most troublesome families here. This adds to the demand on social services for Canterbury City Council, making the local provision worse for existing residents without providing them with homes.
2. Surface water flooding issues are already present in South Street and Chestfield. Promises were made regarding this for the Grasmere development and then endless difficulties encountered delivering them.
3. The water infrastructure is insufficient. Several villages in Kent were completely without water for several weeks last summer, and there is a hosepipe ban in place for much of the year. The provision of drinking water must be improved before more houses are added to the demand.
4. The sewage infrastructure is insufficient, with sewage regularly discharged into the sea along this part of the coast. Recent developments have required local storage of sewage with tankers taking it away, this is not environmentally acceptable because the increased HGV traffic creates significant CO2 and the problem, like the sewage, is simply moved elsewhere.
5. There will be greatly increased demand for healthcare services which are already inadequate, not just doctors but hospitals and dentists are overwhelmed.
6. There will be a very significant increase in traffic through the village, the new slip road from the A299 Thanet Way will not only be used by those living in the new housing development, the village will become a short-cut for those travelling to Swalecliffe, Tankerton and the surrounding area and for those travelling to the North side of Canterbury. The local roads are unsuitable for this volume of traffic, many don't have footpaths for pedestrians and are single-track in places.
7. Prime farm land is a valuable and finite resource. Climate change is already making farmland less productive, to feed the population it must be preserved at all costs. Once it has been built on, it will never be farm land again.
8. The area is currently a haven for biodiversity, with fields, hedgerows, mature trees and the Swalecliffe Brook running through the middle. It is an important part of Chestfield Village with several public footpaths crossing it. The brook is shaded by mature trees and is an important habitat.
9. There will be a significant negative impact on human wellbeing. Many people in the area have chosen to live in a village. Many of us grew up in local villages. We do not wish to live in a town, and believe we have a right to make that choice. With 3,000 – 4,000 new residents added to the village, on top of those at Grasmere and other local developments, the character of Chestfield will be changed greatly, to the detriment of those who have made their lives here.
10. The current proposals constitute gross over-development of the area, if all the current proposals are approved, the population of what is currently a village will more than double without any increase in the infrastructure needed to support this population.

Please reply to confirm you have received my objections.

Rupert Brun *CEng.*

