

Alexander Gunyon

From: Emma Oliver [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 June 2024 01:08
To: Consultations
Subject: Brooklands Farm Development OBJECTION

Categories: Blue category

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

--Email From External Account--

Dear Sirs

I write to object to the Brooklands Farm Development in Whitstable.

If this proposed astronomical development were to go ahead, it would undoubtedly have a hugely detrimental impact on many aspects of the local community, infrastructure, and environment.

There are many existing issues in this area which are currently not being dealt with to an acceptable standard. The physical and mental healthcare, educational, and financial needs of the existing community are not being met by local services with population levels as they stand. To increase the population will undoubtedly increase the pressure placed on service providers, who already struggle to accommodate existing local residents during a time of notable financial crisis. Until services are improved to a consistently acceptable level for the existing community, to increase the pressure on these services would be unforgivable, I object to the Brooklands Farm Development on this basis.

In particular, as you will no doubt be aware, Whitstable continues to suffer increased levels of raw sewage being pumped into the sea. As I understand it, this is due to the existing infrastructure being unable to cope with the level of 'output' being generated by this area. In addition, as I am sure that you will also be aware, there are regular burst water mains which lead to wasted water, significant and extensive disruption to travel, and general expense to businesses and residents. I gather that this has been attributed to the age and condition of the pipes having deteriorated over time leading to them being unable to manage the demand. The disrepair and lack of maintenance of the existing pipework contributes to the regular hosepipe bans inflicted upon residents, a situation which would only be made worse by such an unnecessary amount of new housing being built. I'm sure that you will agree that the damaged water network and the continuing circumstances surrounding the pumping of sewage into the sea draws negative public attention to our town, and puts residents and the environment at risk. I am certain that this has already damaged the historically favourable reputation of our area, and will ultimately decrease the desirability of Whitstable to visitors and locals alike. The proposed development will only further this decline, as it will increase demand on waste 'management'. It is also no secret that surface water flooding is an increasingly common problem in many areas. Not only is surface water flooding and run off an inconvenience and a safety concern, it is damaging to existing properties and the integrity of our clay based ground. There can be no question that removing yet further agricultural land and trees, to be replaced with concrete, roadways, and other buildings, will exacerbate surface water management issues. For these reasons, I object to the Brooklands Farm Development.

In addition to the roads being damaged by burst water mains, we continue to endure very poorly maintained roads and constant roadworks/closures. The condition of the roads in Whitstable and surrounding areas cause damage to cars, and endanger cyclists and other road users. The roads are simply not of a suitable

quality to handle the volume of traffic with circumstances as they are. For many households it is a necessity to have two cars, so it would be fair to assume that this proposed development of 1400 homes would likely increase the volume of traffic by close to 3000 cars, which would only add to the wear and tear on our roads. On a more obvious level, the increase in traffic will add to delays and increase pollution. Already, a journey that has always taken me 10 minutes now takes at least 20 - without this proposed increase in population bringing further traffic to the area. Due to the impact on environmental pollution, and traffic management concerns, I object to the Brooklands Farm Development.

I suspect that developments smaller than the proposed Brookland Farm Development have already had a negative effect on property prices and saleability of homes surrounding such sites. It would be reasonable to suggest that the proposed development would reduce the value and appeal of many existing homes surrounding the site, without compensation or alternative options available to such homeowners, potentially trapping people in homes no longer suitable for them that they are unable to sell at the previous value. Due to the overall appeal of the surrounding area being significantly reduced, I object to the Brooklands Farm Development.

Local amenities and support facilities in the area have experienced substantial budget cuts and have gradually reduced over time, resulting in the closure of services such as many children's centres, outreach venues, and other invaluable community services. Similar services that have so far survived are overstretched, and struggle to meet the needs of the community. As a teenage parent, I experienced first hand how critical these services can be, and my family and I benefitted greatly from accessing such services. I am confident that having appropriate support readily available at the time (2009) had a positive influence that directly supported our positive outcome. I find it very worrying that more recent generations do not have the same services and support available that I was lucky enough to access. To add further pressure to the remaining services will absolutely allow vulnerable people to 'slip through the cracks' and increase risk to a wide variety of individuals in the community. The care available for vulnerable families and individuals in the area is already a serious issue that requires improvement. At risk children, children out of mainstream education, and vulnerable elderly people are already being neglected and are not being placed in suitable support schemes. Without an increase in services, and considerable improvement to same, the proposed development will increase demand on support services. The existing services are already unable to fulfill their obligations to protect and support all members of the community, so I therefore object to the Brooklands Farm Development.

As is well documented, antisocial behaviour continues to be an ongoing issue in Whitstable. An increase in population will likely lead to further issues with antisocial behaviour, at a basic statistical level and as a result of a lack in local services and policing. There are limited incentives and options for young people to engage in positive behaviours and activities. I believe that this issue requires intervention from suitable parties, and that it would be irresponsible of the local authority to overlook the safety and future prospects of the younger generations by increasing the population volume in such an extraordinary way. At a basic level, the increase in traffic volume alone poses a physical risk to young people in the community, together with an increased risk to vulnerable young people from predatory adults and other dangerous environments or behaviours. As there are not enough preventative schemes or support opportunities available to the young people of Whitstable, I cannot support the building of more houses. Accordingly, I object to the Brooklands Farm Development.

Schools are suffering nationally at the hand of budget cuts, withdrawal of resources, and lack of suitable staff to manage large class groups with a wide variety of needs - our schools in Whitstable are not immune to this. It is evident that schools are having to make difficult choices, at the expense of the opportunities available to children. It is unacceptable that schools are unable to provide the same level of education and support to each individual child that is in their care. Class sizes are often larger than ideal, teachers are notably overstretched, and children with Special Educational Needs are often overlooked. Each child should

be supported and encouraged to engage with education on an individual basis, but this is simply not achievable in any school due to budgets and staffing problems. Schools are already oversubscribed and unable to bring out the full potential of their students. As pupils are already being let down in many ways by the education system, it would be farcical to consider increasing the demand on school services without significant reform, and I therefore object to the Brooklands Farm Development.

Physical services provided by our local authority and subsidiaries have been altered and reduced over time, often to the detriment of the community and environment. For example, the closing of some recycling centres, and the recent bin strikes, undoubtedly contributed to the increase in fly tipping that is very noticeable in the local area. I am certain that an increase in population, and therefore an increase in physical waste, will only increase these issues. Further services, such as pharmacies, already struggle to meet the needs of the community. Many are going without their correct prescriptions, or are experiencing delays whilst their pharmacy try to source the correct medications. It is very common that people seeking medical help are unable to obtain doctor or dentist appointments, as the NHS is nationally understaffed, underfunded, and overstretched. These issues will, again, be emphasised by the proposed development increasing demand on such services, and therefore I object to the Brooklands Farm Development .

I'm sure that you will agree, it is imperative that we preserve natural habitats and protect our native wildlife. To suggest that the proposed development would not have a hugely negative impact on the ecosystem and the wildlife in our area would be naive, and have fatal consequences. For example, hedgehogs are considered vulnerable to extinction, and their population has rapidly declined by between 30% and 75% since 2000. Allowing the proposed development to proceed would be actively condemning the future of many species, not least that of hedgehogs. There is a wide variety of wildlife in the area, including bats, birds of prey, snakes, insects, and many others, together with varied plants and trees. Any development has a negative impact on the local wildlife, but a development of this size would cause catastrophic damage to habitats and wildlife. I would like to take this opportunity to strongly urge the local authority to be accountable and consider what steps they are taking to contribute to the salvation of our native wildlife, alongside other environmental factors, rather than seemingly focussing simply on short-term profit. In order to protect what remains of our countryside, I object to the Brooklands Farm Development.

I truly hope that the proposed development is highly scrutinised before any further steps are taken, and that the local authority make a carefully considered, responsible, decision as to the outcome of any plans.

Emma Oliver