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From: Tracey Clarke [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 June 2024 20:48
To: Consultations
Subject: Objection to Policy W4 Land at Brooklands Farm.

Categories: Blue category

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Tracey Holloway,
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Objection to Policy W4 Land at Brooklands Farm.

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed housing development on Brooklands Farm. Most importantly Brooklands Farm is a precious green field site, in a rural area with irreplaceable good quality agricultural land offering a vital sanctuary for wildlife and contributing to the overall ecological balance of our community.

- A. The scale of development in this area is unsustainable. It lacks the infrastructure.
- B) The site lies outside of the town boundary on good quality agricultural land and will result in the unacceptable loss of open green space. It is Rural, not Urban, and should remain as such. These areas are of such importance to the area and ALL it's inhabitants.
- C) There would be a deterioration of irreplaceable habitats including ancient hedgerows and the Swalecliffe Brook. The significant impact the development would have on the local wildlife and their natural habitats would be devastating and is of deep concern. Birds of prey etc use the hedgerows for hunting. Bats and albino squirrels are regularly seen across the fields. An abundance of birds use the hedgerows for nesting. We have regular sightings of many wild birds. Not to mention many other wildlife. The destruction of this green space would result in the loss of biodiversity and disrupt the delicate ecosystem that currently thrives in the area. Preserving such natural habitats is essential for maintaining a sustainable environment and ensuring the well-being of future generations.
- D) Flooding.
Brooklands Farm's green fields currently act as natural drainage, absorbing excess rainwater during heavy rainfall and reducing the likelihood of severe flooding. The replacement of these fields with impermeable surfaces such as buildings and roads would disrupt the natural drainage system and potentially exacerbate flooding issues, placing both existing and future residents at risk. The fields are London clay which is highly susceptible to volumetric changes depending upon its moisture content. During exceptionally dry periods or where the moisture is extracted by tree root activity, the clay can become desiccated and shrink in volume, and conversely swell again when the moisture content is restored. This can lead to many problems near the ground surface, including structural movement and fracturing of buildings, fractured sewers and service pipes/ducts and uneven and damaged road surfaces and pavings. Such damage is recognised to be covered by the interpretation of subsidence in buildings insurance policies. As a result, many insurance companies have now increased the cost of premiums for

buildings located in the most susceptible areas where damage occurred, where the clay is close to the surface.

E) Sewage.

Brooklands Farm is situated in an area that already faces challenges with flooding & sewage. The increased strain on the existing system due to the additional housing could lead to overflows, pollution of water sources (the Swalecliffe Brook also), and a decline in water quality.

Southern Water is unable to cope with the present pressure it is under, let alone supplying an additional 1400 houses.

1400 more houses with one or two toilets will add to its already overstretched capacity.

F) Traffic.

Our roads in this area are narrow and are unable to cope with the amount of extra traffic that will be created by 3000 plus extra cars, not to mention the pollution and noise. The planned new junctions for the A299 would be dispensing traffic onto roads that are ill equipped to deal with it. The additional traffic then going through to Chestfield, South Street and Canterbury will create a significant impact on not only the roads and residents in the area, but going to Canterbury, the road goes through ancient woodland, and pollution and noise etc will have a detrimental impact on wildlife.

It is essential to listen to and take onboard these concerns to avoid any negative consequences for both residents and the environment.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to reconsider the proposed housing development on Brooklands Farm. The preservation of this green field site, the mitigation of sewage issues, the protection of wildlife and their habitats, and the prevention of flooding should be of utmost importance. It is crucial to explore alternative options that prioritise sustainable development and do not compromise the well-being of our community and environment.

Thank you for considering these concerns and taking the appropriate action.

Regards

Tracey Holloway