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I strongly object to policies W3 and W4 (Brooklands Farm) of the draft Local Plan to 2040 for the following reasons:

When I moved to Whitstable thirty years ago it was a peaceful, rural area with cows and sheep on fields surrounding the town and plenty of green spaces. In the last ten most of these essential green spaces have been lost to developments. The town had grown in capacity but the infrastructure to support this has not. Whitstable Heights and the new developments alongside the Thanet Way are already causing considerable disruption to vehicle owners trying to get in or out of Whitstable. The Estuary View shopping complex already snarls up traffic trying to get into the town. We do not need any more housing or traffic. Southern Water do not have the capacity to deal with the current demand - I swim on Tankerton beach daily in summer. The risks caused by their criminal actions polluting the waters are considerable. They will not spend money on new infrastructure for these proposed new homes, they will just pump more effluent out into Whitstable Bay making the town an even less safe place to live. I regularly walk my dog up Rayham Road and out across the fields to Chestfield. The views are wonderful and part of the reason I still live here. To imagine this lost to the creeping red rust of new developments breaks my heart. This has to stop, towns also need green spaces. It is already impossible to see a doctor unless you have lost a limb so where will all these new people get medical treatment? Will there be lots more new doctors appointed? No. Realistically the burden will fall on existing staff and add to waiting times for everyone. Whitstable currently has one Secondary school which has always suffered from the disastrous selections policy advocated in Kent. Will new plans create a proper opportunity for all pupils in Whitstable - not just those coached through selection tests at an early age? No. It will seek to maintain the dreadful inequality brought about by the existing system. I object strongly to the proposals for the Brooklands Farm development for the reasons above.

Gavin Knight

