

Alexander Gunyon

From: Louise [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 June 2024 19:38
To: Consultations
Subject: Objections to building Policy W4 Land at Brooklands Farm

Categories: Blue category

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

--Email From External Account--

Dear Canterbury Council,

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed housing development on Brooklands Farm.

This Farm is a precious green field site, in a rural area with irreplaceable good quality agricultural land which is a vital sanctuary and habitat for wildlife which contributes to the ecology of our diverse community.

- 1) The scale of development in this area is unsustainable. It lacks the infrastructure.
- 2) The site lies outside of the town boundary on good quality agricultural land which is rural with no infrastructure for building development.
- 3) Natural habitats including ancient hedgerows and the Swalecliffe Brook would be adversely affected. The impact of the development would have a negative effect on the local wildlife and their natural habitats. Bats are seen regularly across the fields, as is the albino squirrel. An abundance of birds use the hedgerows for nesting. Birds of prey, sparrow hawks & buzzards etc, use the hedgerows for hunting with nesting woodpeckers, greenfinches, wagtails, goldfinches, and all the usual wild birds plus slow worms and hazel dormice.

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.

- 4) Brooklands Farm's green fields act as natural drainage, as they are now, absorbing excess rainwater during heavy rainfall and reducing flooding. Buildings and roads would disrupt the natural drainage system and potentially exacerbate flooding issues on this London clay ground which places both existing and future residents at risk.

During exceptionally dry periods the soil structure will become compromised. This can lead to many problems near the ground surface, including structural movement and subsidence.

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.

- 5) 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.

- 6) Southern Water is unable to cope with the present pressure it is under, let alone supplying an additional 1400 houses with one or two toilets will add to its already overstretched capacity. This brook has brown trout and eels and sticklebacks - despite the sewage dump that polluted the brook at Long rock in 2014.

7) Our narrow roads are unable to cope with the amount of extra traffic that will be created by 3000 plus extra cars, along with the pollution and noise.

The planned routes impacting on Chestfield, South Street and into Canterbury, where the road goes through ancient woodland, will cause pollution and a detrimental effect on wildlife.

It is essential to thoroughly evaluate and address 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.

The sewage outlet in Tankerton has badly affected our quality of life living on the coast as it constantly pours untreated effluence onto our beaches and prevents us from swimming.

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.

Signed

Louise and Roger Chopping

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.