

## Alexander Gunyon

---

**From:** Melanie Bidewell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 01 June 2024 16:40  
**To:** Consultations  
**Subject:** Consultation for Canterbury District Local Plan to 2040

**Categories:** Blue category

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

### --Email From External Account--

Dear Sirs,

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

1. **Loss of an Area of High Landscape Value** with wonderful rural views of the distant Blean. CCC's Landscape Character Assessment 2020 recommended that CCC should reinforce the open rural setting south of Whitstable and resist development in the A299 New Thanet Way corridor.
2. **This is not a sustainable place to build a large development**, from which (if it is like the rest of south Chestfield) more people would be commuting to Canterbury than any other destination, almost all of them by car. It will also contribute to traffic congestion in the north Canterbury area.
3. **The risk of significant flooding** downstream at Brooklands and downstream in Chestfield and Swalecliffe. Vast areas of storage would be required to accommodate rainwater run-off from any urban development, but this could not be located close to the Brook because that area already floods when the river level rises over the riverbanks as happened in February.
4. **Lack of health facilities**. Local residents currently find that local health services are already badly overstretched - they can't secure an appointment with a local GP, and patients frequently unable to get beds in hospitals.
5. **Swalecliffe Sewage Works is already unable to cope** with the existing demand, and regularly releases untreated sewage into the sea, resulting in instances of serious illness for some visitors to local beaches. This is totally unacceptable for a town with a famous seafood tradition that aspires to be a tourist destination.
6. The proposed new junction linking the A299 to Chestfield Rd and South Street would create **huge increases in traffic on local roads, and therefore road safety problems, pollution and noise** in residential areas. The CCC don't know how bad this will be because the Local Plan traffic modelling was totally inadequate.
7. **Loss of beautiful open landscape and wildlife habitats**. This is very bad for genuine biodiversity.
8. Adverse effect on the **Local Wildlife Site at Convicts Wood**. Building 1,400 houses nearby would cause it to be severely degraded.
9. **Loss of "best and most versatile"** agricultural land, and loss of amenities for local residents.
10. **CCC needs to recognise that housing developments affect the coastal towns much more severely than Canterbury**. Canterbury can expand to north, east, south and west. Whitstable can only expand southwards, as it is constrained by marshland to the west, and by Herne Bay to the east. What little farmland that remains within easy walking distance of Whitstable is needed for residents' recreation and well-being as well as to preserve the last vestiges of the natural setting of this tourist destination town. Therefore, the farmland between the Blean woodland and the existing urban edge of Whitstable should be given statutory protection.

11. For the reasons listed above, the proposals would be unsustainable and would contravene paragraphs 135c, 168, 173, 180a, 180b, 180d and 191b of the Government's National Planning Policy Framework.

12. We are regular visitors to our son and daughter-in-law who live in Chestfield and are concerned about the degradation of their environment,

Yours faithfully

Melanie Bidewell



Sent from my iPad