

Alexander Gunyon

From: Kate Dowse [REDACTED]
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To: Consultations
Subject: W3 and W4 (Brooklands Farm) of the draft Local Plan to 2040

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Dear Planning Department

I am writing to state that I **strongly object to policies W3 and W4 (Brooklands Farm) of the draft Local Plan to 2040.**

While the government wishes to continue to build vast numbers of houses in the South East, as the local Planning Department, it seems that the choices, recommendations and decisions being made for where those houses are built are unconsidered, particularly in terms of the impact on both the environment and local infrastructure.

In Whitstable and the surrounding area, we have already seen the recent addition of a number of very large developments that have taken their toll on the town.

The impact of the Brooklands Farm development however is at another level. Thus my objections to the plan are for the following reasons:

Biodiversity and Nature

1. The area of Brooklands Farm and the nearby Blean Woods is not only an **area of considerable natural beauty**, but offers a **diverse rural ecosystem** that should be protected. Indeed, the **recommendation to build here is in contravention of a previous Canterbury City Council Landscape Character Assessment (2020)** recommendation that your department should resist development within the A299 New Thanet Way corridor and maintain this open rural setting south of Whitstable.
2. The development will have a **serious impact on the area's biodiversity, destroying and evicting wildlife and insects**. The further decline of the local insect habitat and population is at odds with **central government reports** and understanding around **Insect Decline and UK Food Security**.
3. Hand in hand with this is the **loss of versatile and productive agricultural land** that should be protected for UK food production.

Wider Infrastructure

1. **Traffic Impact:** The roads surrounding the proposed development are not built for vastly increased numbers of vehicles. The resulting upscale of traffic (commuter and otherwise) through Blean Woods, into Whitstable town and all routes in and out of the surrounding area is not sustainable. I understand that CCC intends a transport strategy to encourage people to 'leave their cars at home'. However, in reality, this will not happen when people want to get somewhere quickly.

2. Further to the above, it is hard to see how the newly proposed junction linking the A299 to Chestfield Road and South Street will help. It will have no positive effect on traffic travelling from Brooklands Farm to Canterbury through Blean Woods. It will simply **increase traffic, pollution and safety in local residential areas.**
3. **Increase in Sewage Output:** The local sewage treatment works are already proved to be failing. The regular release of untreated sewage into the sea (and its associated serious health risk – both to human and sea life) is of continuing concern. Any increased demand can only exacerbate impact further and the new outfall construction will not solve the problem.
4. **Health Facilities:** It goes without saying that adding thousands more people to the local population will impact access to and availability of local health services.
5. **Increased Flood Risk:** The removal of farmland for development creates greater run-off and inevitably heightens flood risk. With each new development, this risk will increasingly impact other local residents and businesses, particularly with the continuing predicted rise of rainfall.
6. 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.**

**Yours Sincerely,
Catherine Dowse (Whitstable Resident)**