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From: Gerry BT [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 June 2024 10:34
To: Consultations
Subject: Concerning the proposals for Brooklands Farm Development Chestfield

Categories: Blue category

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Objection to Policy W4 Land at Brooklands Farm.

I wish to object to the proposed housing development on Brooklands Farm.

1} Size

Brooklands Farm is set in a largely rural area, and contributes towards the Nation's food supply. The scale of development in this area is unsustainable. It lacks the infrastructure to support it in terms of Public Transport, health services and education. The head of the Estuary View services has already raised concerns about the size of the developments in the area and the potential to overwhelm medical services.

2) Flooding.

Brooklands Farm's 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 paving. Such damage is recognised to be covered by the interpretation of subsidence in buildings insurance policies, and the periods of dry weather in 1976/77 and 1988/92, in particular, led to a host of insurance claims. 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.

3) 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.

The Swalecliffe Brook flows through the Thanet Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) before joining the north Kent coast to the east of Whitstable, a section of the coast which forms part of the Saxon Shore Way. It runs through Brooklands Farm.

4) Traffic.

Our roads in this are narrow and are unable to cope with the amount of extra traffic that will be created by such a development plus extra cars, not to mention the pollution and noise. The planned new junctions for the A299 would disperse traffic onto a major road. The local traffic will leave the A299 via the junctions at Herne Bay and Clapham Hill increasing traffic flows at these points and at Borstal Hill Roundabout which already is struggling to cope due to the piecemeal development along the old Thanet Way. The new junction will also draw traffic from the Swalecliffe and Chestfield areas, increasing traffic flow through the existing narrow roads.

5) Water supply.

I constantly receive emails from South East Water telling me that we live in a water stressed area. The addition of this number of homes will do nothing to alleviate this and has potential to cause a drop in water pressure in the area and failures of supply

6) Ecology

Our fields and trees are the lungs of this planet and this development can only increase the carbon emissions of the area. There is no doubt a wide variety of birds, and animals which will be displaced by this development if allowed.

I therefore the Council 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 to any Local Authority.

