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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 June 2024 01:13
To: Consultations
Subject: Objection to Policies W4 and W6 - Consultation for Canterbury District Local Plan to 2040

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David Abbott
[REDACTED]

I am writing to object to policies W4 and W6, the proposed Brooklands Farm and Bodkin Farm housing developments in Whitstable as outlined in the Consultation for Canterbury District Local Plan to 2040.

Whitstable is becoming too large, too fast and our infrastructure can't cope with the proposed number of new dwellings, especially on top of the other housing developments currently being constructed in Whitstable and nearby towns. The roads and parking are at breaking point before adding an extra 1700 plus vehicles. Then there's the over-burdened sewerage system which can't cope with the sewage and rain water runoff as it stands.

Whitstable Heights, Pearson Heights and Grasmere Gardens are already adding an extra 729 dwellings, which will add around 1749 people to the current population based on each dwelling having the average household size of 2.4 people. This would be exacerbated further should the 1700 dwellings at Brooklands Farm and Bodkin Farm get the go ahead, potentially adding an extra 4080 to Whitstable's population. In total this will be an extra 5829 people since the last census in 2021 when the population was 32,196. This is an increase of 18.1%. In the 20 years up to 2021 our population increased by only 2001 people so this will be a huge jump in a short time when our infrastructure isn't coping now. These estimates are also based on the average, there is a good chance household sizes could be above the national average and end up increasing the population by 20-25%.

I believe the people of Whitstable would be more amenable to housing developments as long as they are on a smaller scale and go hand in hand with eye-catching infrastructure improvements. Top of the list being improvements to sewage management and drainage and the construction of a reservoir; providing new and improving on current green spaces for leisure and wellbeing, such as Church Street Playing Field which should not be considered for a special needs school or for any development other than leisure; extra GP surgeries providing evening and weekend appointments and more beds in local hospitals. I realise the health service isn't in your remit, but it is something you could lobby for when central government wants to build more houses. More parking and better traffic management should also be high on the list. The proposed Whitstable park and ride service would be welcomed, I only became aware of it after reading the Local Plan. This is something you should publicise more widely as I'm sure it would get support, but it can't be reliant on future CIL funding, it has been needed for a long time regardless of new

developments. Costs should be levied from the Whitstable Heights, Pearson Heights and Grasmere Gardens developments if CIL funding is needed.

I hope you will listen to the large groundswell against these proposals and not push unpopular diktats from central government or pander to big business and follow your democratic mandate to serve the local people.

Regards,
David Abbott.