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To: Consultations
Subject: Objection

Categories: Blue category

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consultations@canterbury.gov.uk
From Zak Breakspear

Objection to Policy W4 Land at Brooklands Farm.

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed housing development on Brooklands Farm.

First and foremost, Brooklands Farm is a vital greenfield site in a rural area, offering irreplaceable high-quality agricultural land. It serves as a sanctuary for wildlife and plays a crucial role in maintaining the ecological balance of our community.

1. The scale of development in this area is unsustainable due to inadequate infrastructure.
2. The site is located outside the town boundary on valuable agricultural land, resulting in an unacceptable loss of open green space. It is rural, not urban, and should remain as such.
3. The development would damage irreplaceable habitats, including ancient hedgerows and Swalecliffe Brook, significantly impacting local wildlife. Birds of prey, sparrowhawks, buzzards, bats, and an albino squirrel are regularly seen in the area. Numerous birds, such as woodpeckers, greenfinches, wagtails, goldfinches, and other wild birds, nest in the hedgerows. The site also hosts slow worms and hazel dormice. Destroying this green space would lead to a loss of biodiversity and disrupt the delicate ecosystem. Preserving these habitats is essential for a sustainable environment and the well-being of future generations.
4. Flooding: Brooklands Farm's green fields currently act as natural drainage, absorbing excess rainwater and reducing the risk of severe flooding. Replacing these fields with impermeable surfaces like buildings and roads would disrupt the natural drainage system, exacerbating flooding issues and endangering residents. The London clay in the area is prone to volumetric changes with moisture content variations, leading to structural problems, fractured sewers, and damaged roads. Such issues have led to increased insurance premiums for buildings in susceptible areas.

5. Sewage: Brooklands Farm is in an area already challenged by flooding and sewage issues. Additional housing would strain the existing system, leading to overflows, water pollution, and declining water quality. Southern Water is already struggling to cope, and the addition of 1,400 houses would further overwhelm its capacity. The Swalecliffe Brook, flowing through a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) before joining the north Kent coast, could be further polluted. It is home to brown trout, eel, and possibly three-spined sticklebacks, which are significant for conservation.
6. Traffic: The local roads are narrow and cannot handle the additional traffic from over 3,000 extra cars, leading to increased pollution and noise. Planned new junctions for the A299 would funnel traffic onto ill-equipped roads, impacting Chestfield, South Street, and Canterbury. The additional traffic through ancient woodland would also harm wildlife due to pollution and noise.

These concerns must be thoroughly evaluated and addressed to avoid negative consequences for residents and the environment.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to reconsider the proposed housing development on Brooklands Farm. Preserving this greenfield site, addressing sewage issues, protecting wildlife and their habitats, and preventing flooding should be top priorities. It is crucial to explore alternative options that prioritize sustainable development without compromising our community and environment's well-being.

Thank you for considering these concerns and taking appropriate action.

Signed
Zak Breakspear
Sent from my iPhone