

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir or Madam

Objection to Policy W4 Land at Brooklands Farm.

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed housing development on Brooklands Farm.

First and foremost, Brooklands Farm is a precious green field site, in a rural area with irreplaceable good quality agricultural land offering a vital sanctuary for wildlife and contributing to the overall ecological balance of our community.

My principal reasons for objecting to this development are:

- 1) **Scale.** The scale of development in this area is unsustainable. It lacks the infrastructure. The site lies outside of the town boundary on good quality agricultural land and will result in the unacceptable loss of open green space. It is Rural, not Urban, and should remain as such.
- 2) **Flooding.** Brooklands Farm's green fields 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 systems 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. 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.
- 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) and a further decline in water quality. Southern Water is unable to cope with the present pressure it is under, let alone supporting an additional 1400 houses. 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 area are narrow and are unable to cope with the amount of extra traffic that will be created by possibly 2000 plus extra cars, not to mention the pollution and noise. The planned new junctions for the A299 would be dispensing traffic onto roads that are ill equipped to deal with it. The additional traffic then going through to Chestfield, South Street and Canterbury will create a significant impact on not only the roads and residents in the area, but going to Canterbury, the road goes through ancient woodland, and pollution and noise etc will have a detrimental impact on wildlife.
- 5) **Environment.** The development would result in the destruction of irreplaceable habitats including ancient hedgerows and the Swalecliffe Brook. The significant impact the development would have on the local wildlife and their natural habitats is of grave concern. Birds of prey, sparrow hawks & buzzards etc, use the hedgerows for hunting. Bats are seen regularly across the fields. An abundance of birds use the hedgerows for nesting. We have regular sightings of woodpeckers, greenfinches, wagtails, goldfinches, and all the usual wild birds. There are many slow worms on the site and hazel dormice. The destruction of this green space would result in the loss of biodiversity and disrupt the delicate ecosystem that currently thrives in the area. Preserving such natural habitats is essential for maintaining a sustainable environment and ensuring the well-being of future generations.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to reconsider the proposed housing development on Brooklands Farm. The preservation of this green field site, the impact of flooding, sewage, traffic and the protection of wildlife and their habitats should be of utmost importance. The proposed development should not go ahead.

Yours faithfully

James Smith