

Alexander Gunyon

From: Chris Argyle-Robinson [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 June 2024 21:04
To: Consultations
Subject: Objection to Policy W4 Land at Brooklands Farm

Categories: Green category

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Chris & Julia Argyle-Robinson



Dear Sir or Madam,

Objection to Proposed Housing Development at Brooklands Farm

I am writing to express our strong objection to the proposed housing development on Brooklands Farm in Whitstable.

Loss of Valuable Green Space and Ecological Impact:

- Brooklands Farm is a precious green field site with irreplaceable agricultural land. It provides a vital sanctuary for wildlife and contributes significantly to the ecological balance of the community.
- The large-scale development proposed for this rural area is unsustainable. The existing infrastructure is insufficient to support such a significant increase in population.
- Building on this land would result in the unacceptable loss of open green space and the destruction of irreplaceable habitats such as ancient hedgerows and the Swalecliffe Brook.
- This destruction would have a grave impact on local wildlife, including birds of prey, bats, albino squirrels, slow worms, hazel dormice, and a variety of bird species.
- Preserving natural habitats is essential for maintaining a healthy environment and ensuring the well-being of future generations.

Increased Risk of Flooding:

- The green fields at Brooklands Farm currently act as natural drainage, absorbing excess rainwater and mitigating the risk of flooding.
- Replacing these fields with impermeable surfaces like buildings and roads would disrupt the natural drainage system, potentially causing severe flooding and endangering existing and future residents.
- The London clay underlying the site is susceptible to volumetric changes due to moisture content, leading to structural damage and infrastructure issues during dry periods.

Strained Sewage System and Water Quality Concerns:

- The area already faces challenges with sewage and flooding. The additional strain from 1400 new houses could lead to overflows, water pollution, and a decline in water quality.
- Southern Water's existing capacity is insufficient to handle the additional demand.

- The Swalecliffe Brook, which flows through the proposed development site and is part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest, could be further polluted.

Traffic Congestion and Pollution:

- The narrow roads in the area are already congested and cannot handle the significant increase in traffic from an additional 3,000 cars.
- This would cause pollution, noise, and negatively impact residents' quality of life.
- The planned junctions for the A299 would divert traffic onto unsuitable roads, further impacting Chestfield, South Street, and Canterbury, including the ancient woodland along the route.

Alternative Solutions:

It is essential to explore alternative, sustainable development options that prioritise the well-being of our community and environment.

Conclusion:

We strongly urge you to reconsider the proposed development on Brooklands Farm. Preserving this green space, mitigating sewage issues, protecting wildlife habitats, and preventing flooding should be of utmost importance.

Thank you for considering my concerns and taking appropriate action.

Sincerely,

Chris and Jules Argyle-Robinson