

## Alexander Gunyon

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**From:** Lucy Stockton-Smith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 03 June 2024 16:45  
**To:** Consultations  
**Subject:** Objection to Policy C12

**Categories:** Green category

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I object to this proposal.

What a travesty to build on this valuable habitat.

The increase in traffic will make travel in and out of Canterbury from surrounding areas even more difficult than it already is. I cannot see appropriate mitigation for this

The scale of the development is out of proportion to the local area and does not include necessary infrastructure.

The local sewage system is currently unable to process sewage and waste water, there is no plan to resolve this even before the addition of these homes.

There is no assurance that the building contractors will keep to their commitments in terms of sensitivity to the local landscape and wildlife. This requires urgent attention. The Blean is a unique ancient woodlands and our local councils (both Canterbury and Kent) should be ensuring its protection not piecemeal destruction, shame on you.

Lucy Stockton-Smith  
[REDACTED]

## Alexander Gunyon

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**From:** Lucy Stockton-Smith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 03 June 2024 12:38  
**To:** Consultations  
**Subject:** OBJECTION policy W4

**Categories:** Green category

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**--Email From External Account--**

Lucy Stockton-Smith  
[REDACTED]

I object to Policy W4 Land at Brooklands Farm

This is an OBJECTION to policy W4 to develop Brooklands farm for housing.

I grew up in Whitstable and now have my own children, we are all aware of the changes in the town's popularity and the shortage of affordable housing. Indeed, if you were to watch the movement of people from day to day it is clear that you cannot afford to live here if you work here, the local wage will not pay enough for rent or mortgage. People have to travel in to work from cheaper areas and out to work in higher wage locations, this is not sustainable, however a building plan such as this one will not improve this problem, only worsen it.

### 1 Traffic

This proposal will increase car use into the town centre which is already overwhelmed by traffic. It will add to the poor flow of vehicular movement and increased pollution related to idling vehicles in pinch points such as the traffic lights by the railway bridge. There is no consideration for where the increase in cars will park once they have arrived in town. Anyone who thinks this is not an issue has no knowledge of the town. This cannot be mitigated by extra car parks or any restrictions on street parking as it is a volume issue.

There are already severe traffic problems during the start and end of the school day, including around the schools on what used to be outskirts such as Joy Lane and Swalecliffe. Residents local to schools, shops, and other local facilities currently have to plan their day's schedule as well as when they use their cars during the week to avoid these predictable and regular times of gridlock. It is already a severe issue which will be impacted further by this planning proposal. Cycle paths or promises of buses may reduce the potential impact a little, but nowhere near enough.

As well as the town itself the local road network is insufficient for the increase in car use. The road from Chestfield to Canterbury has a history of serious car accidents which will only worsen if these plans are approved.

### 2 Loss of land

The proposals are on greenfield agricultural land. At such an important time in this nation's history it baffles me that those in power cannot see the value in the county's farmland. We are called the Garden of England because the soil and climate we have is so valuable. Turning this into housing looks at short term gains with no long term vision of sustainable agricultural autonomy.

### 3 Biodiversity

I am already devastated by the impact on the local wildlife from current building projects. The Old Thanet Way from Borstal Hill to Millstrood Road is littered with the corpses of wild animals which have been displaced as I write this today.

The scale of these proposals though are profound and must be addressed before this application is agreed.

The beauty and wonder of our landscape has an intrinsic value to the area which will ironically be lost through the continual building projects which seek to capitalise on it. But it is more than beauty. The loss of habitats and the wildlife which relies on them (birds, bats, dormice, slow worms and so on) will be final and extremely destructive to the local ecosystem and fragile biodiversity which I and my children expect the local council to be stewards for. Pushing an ecosystem out of balance will always create new problems for local agriculture and infrastructure.

#### 4 Water management - Flooding + Sewage

You can already see the impact of increased building around the outside of Whitstable on rainwater run off. Climate models anticipate wetter winters and drier summers, we have clay soil which makes the potential for flooding even higher than other parts of the country under these circumstances. Brooklands farm is an important area for rain run off and the clue is in the name regarding the brook to manage rain water flow. As flood risks increase so too will insurance which in turn impacts mortgage offers and the local economy.

Southern Water cannot manage the current requirements on its services in the area. It allows untreated sewage to enter our sea on days of rainfall. Their current advice is to increase soakaways around our homes to reduce rainwater from entering the waste water system through road drains. They say this increase in runoff from areas such as front gardens being turned into driveways is part of the reason they release untreated sewage into the sea. The impact of turning agricultural land into a housing estate will have far greater impact than the town tarmacking their gardens already has. As well as the local landscape, our sea is the area's main asset, these kinds of proposals really do seem to forget the reason why people come here and support the economy and we are in danger of killing the goose which lays the golden eggs through short term greed.

To add to this impact of rain runoff there is the addition of homes and their toilets which an already broken sewage system simply cannot maintain.

For the sake of us all a new direction in housing planning must be taken. This town of ours will soon lose all its value, if it has no community as the heart is filled with traffic and empty second homes, no sea because of the sewage, and no countryside because it is concreted over, and no work because the local economy which relies on tourism has collapsed.

Please reconsider and search for solutions which are sustainable and have community at their heart.

Lucy Stockton-Smith