

Alexander Gunyon

From: David Hancock [REDACTED]
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To: Consultations
Subject: Canterbury District Local Plan - Objection

Categories: Green category

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Local Plan, Brooklands Farm Section - Chapter 3 policy W4

As a Canterbury council tax payer and someone who has lived their whole life in Whitstable, I OBJECT to this proposal.

Some of the reasons for my objection are:

- The building of 1,400 new homes and the use of tarmac and concrete to cover existing agricultural land brings a significantly increased risk of flooding at Brooklands and downstream in Chestfield and Swalecliffe. The Swalecliffe Brook, which traverses the proposed housing development, already struggles to cope with the increased amounts of rainwater we now experience; the additional run-off caused by this development will exacerbate the problem.
- Swalecliffe sewage works is already unable to cope with existing demand, with Southern Water regularly pumping untreated sewage into our coastal waters. This has resulted in serious illness for some users of local beaches. All these extra dwellings will place an unmanageable strain on what is already an inadequate sewage system.
- Our local health services are already badly over-stretched and I see no mention within the plan for any extra provision. My 94 year old aunt, a Whitstable resident, is currently in the middle of a two week wait to see her doctor at the Health Centre, an appointment she needs because she suffered a stroke last month. I can only imagine how long this wait would be if we had another three thousand extra residents (on top of however many are going to be crammed into the 'Whitstable Heights' and Church Lane, Seasalter developments).
- I cycle the roads in this district on a daily basis: most are poorly maintained and many not even fit for purpose. The provision of sustainable transport options is minimal, often pointless (e.g. the new Bullockstone Road cycle path that takes you to the 60 mph A291) and sometimes downright hazardous (the short cycle lane in New Dover directs cyclists onto the A2, a 70mph dual carriageway, to travel to Dover!). 1,400 new homes will mean in excess of 2,000 more cars using this crumbling infrastructure. Talk of cycling and pedestrian provision is misplaced, as most people living that far out of town will choose to drive everywhere, because that's what people do. There is no encouragement to do otherwise and the proposed access roads to and from the A299 amply illustrate that everything will be done to make life easy for motorists, while public transport users, pedestrians and cyclists will continue to be third class road users. I have seen the disruption these massive building sites bring: the Herne Bay golf course development is a disgusting muddy mess which is in no way welcoming to pedestrians or cyclists; Thornden Wood Road at Greenhill is a regular coated in mud from the building site. I don't see mention of any undertaking to keep South Street or the Crab & Winkle Way fully operational during the months / years that this building goes on, so presumably residents who walk or cycle will be directed to dangerous main roads, just as they have been for the months that Lower Herne and Bullockstone Roads were closed.
- Loss of best and most versatile agricultural land.

- Loss of open-landscape wildlife habitats, bad for genuine biodiversity. It is a continued source of joy to cycle out of town along South Street and view open countryside; the wildlife that I have enjoyed seeing, including buzzards, greenfinches and hares, will all be displaced, never to return.
- Loss of amenity for local residents. The provision of a Special Needs School has found its way into this part of the plan and, because it's very near and dear to me, I know that KCC plan to build it on Church Street Playing Fields, which would mean the further loss of a green, public recreation space in Whitstable.
- The development would not be "sustainable". Whitstable is a small town and not the right place to build so many more houses. Talk of the houses being for local people is pie-in-the-sky, because developers pitch their sales at people who can afford them, and that is not local people! We have two adult daughters who were born and raised in Whitstable, where they would love to live. They are both in their thirties, university educated and have husbands who are full time professionals; neither family could get anywhere near buying a home in Whitstable and could only just manage to afford houses in Herne Bay.

I OBJECT to this proposal.

David Hancock, 