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From: MargaretandJim Crawley [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 June 2024 15:45
To: Consultations
Subject: Objection to Policy W4 Land at Brooklands Farm.

Categories: Green category

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Mr Jim Crawley
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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 Greenfield 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.

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.

There would be 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, as is the albino squirrel. 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.

Preserving such natural habitats is essential for maintaining a sustainable environment and ensuring the well-being of future generations.

Flooding.

The fields at Brooklands Farm currently act as natural drainage, absorbing excess rainwater during heavy rainfall and reducing the likelihood of severe flooding. The replacement of these fields with concrete & such as buildings and roads would disrupt the natural drainage system and increase flooding issues, placing both existing and future residents at risk.

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 also), and a decline in water quality.

Southern Water is unable to cope with the present pressure it is under, let alone supplying an additional 1400 houses.

1400 more houses with one or two toilets will add to its already overstretched capacity.

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.

It has could have been classed as a Salmonid River (trout stream) due to having brown trout and eel, both of which are of conservation significance. There is also the possibility that three-spined sticklebacks will still be present, despite the 2013 sewage dump that polluted the brook at Long rock.

Traffic.

Our roads in this are narrow and are unable to cope with the amount of extra traffic that will be created by 3000 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.

It is essential to thoroughly evaluate and address these concerns to avoid any negative consequences for both residents and the environment.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to reconsider the proposed housing development on Brooklands Farm. The preservation of this green field site, the mitigation of sewage issues, the protection of wildlife and their habitats, and the prevention of flooding should be of utmost importance. It is crucial to explore alternative options that prioritise sustainable development and do not compromise the well-being of our community and environment.

Please listen to these concerns and cancel this development.

Kind regards,

Jim Crawley