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Sent: 03 June 2024 15:06
To: Consultations
Subject: Local Plan 2040 comments and objections.

Categories: Green category

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Name: Suzanne Sidders
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Response to Canterbury City Council's new draft local plan

I object to this ridiculously high development of housing in a small area in a short time. Hospitals in Margate and Ashford already struggle to meet the needs of the existing population.

There is no plan to provide more hospital services in the area and will not be in time to meet the needs of the additional population.

There are no plans to deal with the volume of sewage created by 2,000 homes; given the dire reputation of Water Companies at this time, with illegal amounts of untreated sewage being dumped in the sea, how can we trust them to ensure that no larger contamination reaches the environment on an unprecedented scale.

The environmental impacts are huge and irreversible.

Specifically, I object to **BROOKLANDS** development under **W4 W5 W6**

The conversion of farmland to housing development will have several significant impacts:

Increase in Air, Water, Noise, and Landfill Pollution: Construction activities + 1400 homes will generate pollutants such as dust, noise, and chemicals. These harm air quality, contaminate water sources and disrupt ecosystems.

Natural Resources Loss: Converting farmland to housing reduces available land for agriculture and wildlife habitats, leading to biodiversity loss.

Population Fragmentation and Biodiversity Loss: Urban development fragments natural habitats, affecting wildlife movement and biodiversity. The conversion of farmland to housing can lead to habitat loss and fragmentation, threatening local and regional biodiversity.

This land in and around Brooklands has native protective species including the slow worm. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) all native reptiles, including slow worms, are listed as rare and most threatened species under Section 41 of this act.

Urban structures act as barriers to animal movement. This will prevent animals from accessing food, mates, and other resources. Also, disrupt the life cycles of many species and lead to local extinctions.

Waste Generation: Construction generates substantial waste, including materials like concrete, wood, and plastics.

Climate Change: Contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, impacting the global climate. Farmland sequesters carbon, so its loss will contribute to climate change.

Risk of Flooding - Building on farmland will increase flood risk and this land is in a functional floodplain.

Food Security: The loss of productive farmland will threaten food security. The increased risk of severe flooding caused by climate change will further challenge food security in the future. More than 200,000 hectares – or 60% – of England’s finest Grade 1 agricultural land is within areas at the highest risk of flooding.

I also object to C12 - The Blean.

1. Loss of Irreplaceable Habitats:

- o Ancient woodlands are unique ecosystems that have developed over centuries. When new houses are constructed on these woodlands, they will be lost forever. This impacts not only the trees but also the biodiverse soils, ground flora, roots, and understory vegetation.
- o The destruction of these woodlands will lead to habitat fragmentation and huge biodiversity loss.

2. Impact on Biodiversity:

- o Ancient woodlands support a rich diversity of plant and animal species. Construction disrupts these ecosystems, affecting wildlife habitats.
- o LPA's cannot avoid or mitigate for negative impacts on protected species and ancient woodlands therefore going against Natural England.
- o Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017: Skylarks are protected under this act. It is an offence to kill or injure, damage or destroy their breeding sites and resting places. It is also an offence to disturb them intentionally or recklessly.
- o Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006): All native birds, including skylarks, are listed as rare and most threatened species under Section 41 of this act.

3. Fragmentation and Isolation:

- o New housing developments can fragment ancient woodlands, isolating smaller patches. This disrupts ecological connectivity and reduces genetic diversity.

4. Climate Impact:

- o Ancient woodlands sequester carbon and contribute to climate regulation. Clearing them for housing & building houses will release stored carbon and increase CO2 impacting UK climate targets.

5. Water Management:

- o Ancient woodlands play a role in regulating water flow, preventing flooding, and maintaining soil stability. Urbanization will alter these processes.
- o Urban development alters natural water flow patterns. Paved surfaces increase runoff, leading to flooding and soil erosion.

6. Visual and Cultural Heritage:

- o Ancient woodlands have cultural and historical significance and have heritage laws. Their loss impacts local communities and the landscape.

- o Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI): The government acknowledged in Parliament that the AWI is a crucial tool for protecting trees and woods from harm. The Keepers of Time Policy outlines the value of England's ancient and native woodlands and ancient and veteran trees. It states Government's commitment to evaluate the threats facing these habitats and sets out England's updated principles and objectives to protect and improve these habitats for future generations.

- o Principles and Objectives: The policy sets out updated principles and objectives to protect and improve these habitats for future generations. This includes increasing the extent of native woodland, improving the ecological condition of ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees, conserving the rare, threatened or priority species that rely on ancient woodland, reducing the pressures on ancient woodland, and valuing ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees. The policy also recognises the importance of cultural importance to health and wellbeing.

7. Traffic and Air Pollution

- o Increase in 2000 homes, 2000-4000 cars on the road, 2000-8000 people living in the area increasing waste and the significant impacts that has on pollution. Infrastructure Strain:

- o New houses require infrastructure which will strain existing systems.