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From: Theresa Kemp [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 June 2024 14:30
To: Consultations
Subject: Save Brooklands Farm

Categories: Green category

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Dear Sirs,

I write with regard to the proposed Brooklands Farm development. In short, I OBJECT!

Having been born in [REDACTED] and lived in it for the past [REDACTED] years, I feel we have now lost Whitstable as we all knew it. Everything changes of course, as it should, but the whole character of Whitstable has crumbled away. The community has gone. Most of us now are living amongst neighbours who have only just moved in from London and are commuting to London or, living amongst properties that are only inhabited during the summer weekends. Added to this, many of us also have lost our children as they have grown and looked to find their own homes. Unable to afford the rental costs, let alone house prices locally, two of our 'children' have left the county completely. One is renting out of the area but still in Kent and the 4th is buying in Kent, but over an hour's drive away. The original community is fading fast.

The new builds will include social housing you say, but they won't. Not enough and certainly not giving the type of property that you can get for a lesser price elsewhere. On the same note, these properties include a percentage held by London Boroughs for their overflow. This is what Whitstable is turning into, the overflow pot of London. We have second homes, holiday homes, London council homes, Air BnB's...

Come the summer months, we struggle to leave our homes, if we take off in our vehicles there will be nowhere to park again when we get back. These new locals are going to need somewhere to park when they want to visit the town... But I digress.

The new homes will just add to the problems that Whitstable is already struggling with:

Seriously bad roads because of the increase in traffic.

A seaside you can no longer swim in because of the sewage being pumped into it which Southern Water cannot handle with their system as it stands now.

The old flood area of Whitstable is still there. I used to live there with my parents and experienced the high water/rough weather flooding which included all the drains backing up. All that came into the house and the destruction still remained (albeit hidden to the best of their ability) 60 years later. Even when it is just heavy rain, which we seem to get a lot of lately, the drains back up and that house had the water level rise under the floorboards. A new estate will remove more land that is at present taking up the rain, adding more concrete to send the rivers on its way down to the town centre.

In that area also, wildlife! Ugly estates are being built or being planned for various local areas, killing or chasing away the wildlife that used it.

It rained a lot last week but we all believe it wont be long before we are handed another hosepipe ban. We cannot hold enough water and treat it fast enough to supply the residents now. What will happen when another two or three estates pop up with many more residents using the supply?

It is well documented that many people now are unable to access a dentist. Are finding it difficult to see a doctor, let alone their own. Are waiting many hours for an ambulance when required and when they finally get one, they spend hours sitting inside it, outside of the hospital. Most of the elderly know this is going to happen and try not to call but where does that leave them? The local NHS cannot handle what it has to deal with now, and adding a few more thousand people to that list will do what?

Rubbish! Loads more rubbish to collect . Again, we are constantly either hearing or experiencing missed collections. Or last year, the green rubbish was moved into a pay per use scheme. Despite having gardens and needing the bin, some people just cannot afford to pay the extra for that particular collection so have pulled out, treating the green waste as general waste - if there's room in the bin that is. The Council tax continues to rise but the Council is having financial worries. It charges for things it just isn't able to properly cover. We pay for police that use Whitstable as a rat run. There are more pupils than school places. Class numbers are rising again to the detriment of each child's eventual development...

In short, infrastructure We just don't have it fit for the town now. Adding another layer of users will exacerbate ALL the problems now standing.

Please do not give the Brooklands Development the go-ahead.

Yours faithfully,
Theresa Kemp