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From: Neil Yates [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 June 2024 14:23
To: Consultations
Subject: Objection to Proposed Housing Development on Brooklands Farm, Near Whitstable

Categories: Green category

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I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed housing development on Brooklands Farm, near Whitstable. I urge the Canterbury City Council to reconsider this plan based on the following points:

- 1. Increased Flooding Risk:** The development poses a significant risk of increased flooding both at Brooklands and downstream in Chestfield and Swalecliffe. This area is already prone to flooding, and additional housing will exacerbate the problem, putting homes and lives at greater risk.
- 2. Strained Health Services:** Local health services are already overstretched, with patients frequently unable to secure hospital beds. Adding more residents without expanding healthcare infrastructure will only worsen the situation, compromising the well-being of the community.
- 3. Increased Traffic:** The proposed development will lead to a substantial increase in traffic on local roads. The traffic modelling in the Local Plan was inadequate, failing to accurately predict the potential impact. This will lead to congestion, longer commute times, and increased pollution.
- 4. Overburdened Sewage Works:** Swalecliffe sewage works are already struggling to meet current demand, resulting in serious health issues for visitors to local beaches. This is unacceptable for a town with a renowned seafood tradition that aims to be a tourist destination. Further development will exacerbate these issues, damaging public health and the town's reputation.
- 5. Loss of Agricultural Land:** The development will result in the loss of some of the best and most versatile agricultural land. This land is crucial for local food production and its loss cannot be justified.
- 6. Destruction of Landscape and Wildlife Habitats:** Building on this site will lead to the permanent destruction of beautiful open landscapes and wildlife habitats, which is detrimental to genuine biodiversity. This area is an important natural asset that should be preserved.
- 7. Loss of Rural Character:** The development will permanently destroy the rural nature of the Swalecliffe Brook valley, which serves as the unofficial Green Belt between urban Whitstable and The Blean. It is perplexing why Canterbury City Council has not provided this area with protected status.
- 8. Unsustainability of Development:** The proposed development is not sustainable. Whitstable is not a suitable location for housing intended for Canterbury commuters. The environmental and social costs far outweigh any potential benefits.

In conclusion, I strongly urge the Canterbury City Council to reject the proposed housing development on Brooklands Farm. The negative impacts on flooding, health services, traffic, sewage capacity, agriculture, biodiversity, rural character, and local amenities are significant and far-reaching. This development is neither sustainable nor in the best interest of the local community.

Thank you for considering my objections.

Yours faithfully,

Neil Yates