

## Alexander Gunyon

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# Objection to policies W3 and W4 (Brooklands Farm) of the draft Local Plan to 2040

**I strongly object to the proposed development at Brooklands Farm.**

I object on many counts - **the most pressing of which is the sewage in our sea and rivers.** This is already a huge problem. This development would exacerbate this for years to come. **More houses = more sewage** in a system that is already at capacity and failing.

The link between polluted water and disease is not complicated. This then puts a strain on the already **overcrowded healthcare system.** The option for healthy and happy living which includes outdoor swimming, running, cycling, walking is becoming limited. Families enjoying the simple but essential pleasure of the beach or a walk in the countryside becomes a luxury or needs a car and then traffic and parking nightmares.

At a time when food is becoming more expensive it is wrong and irresponsible to lose valuable and good quality farmland. We are constantly told that local is best!

**Once prime farmland is lost, it is lost forever,** creating a ripple effect of problems which are harder to quantify than arbitrary government imposed housing quotas but whose repercussions are far greater.

This is all the more serious in a town whose existence is characterised by **farming and tourism** in its lush and varied countryside and working harbour, oyster farming and beautiful coastline. The infrastructure is already extremely stretched with a massive problem of raw sewage in the sea, **endless flooding of roads, damaged roads and traffic jams and overcrowded and expensive car parks.**

**Flooding is already a major concern in this area.**

**Housing** cannot be reduced to endless housing estates where people are crammed into ever smaller and duller spaces.

The most superficial glance at history shows that high density housing and unsanitary conditions such as sewage in the water led to high incidence of disease. Add to this economic stress, increased immigration and lack of functioning infrastructure and society becomes more and more dissatisfied leading to sickness and unrest.

**By removing a beautiful panoramic view and open space you remove what makes humans breathe,** nevermind the invisible and visible ecosystems of nature of which we are an intrinsic part. Green fields and open spaces can't be replaced with tiny theme park style parkland which measure green space in aggregate and hierarchical importance of function - climbing frames, dog enclosure or designated sport facilities.

We will be left with **ugly urban sprawl** which has neither the advantage of a city with culture and diverse activities nor the open space of the countryside with its mix of farmland and woods. We need the wildlife.

We need the beauty and the space.

**This development is vast.** It is also put forward as other large developments are going ahead in this area and all over the county. **There is too much building at one time.** It is an assault on our community. **This development is too big and unsuitable for this area.**

I love Whitstable and think this development added to the many already agreed or being built will destroy the fabric of what makes this town special.

Katherine Mesquita

