

Alexander Gunyon

From: Mira Homden [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 June 2024 13:50
To: Consultations
Subject: Objection to Policy W4 Brooklands Farm

Categories: Green category

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Attention: Consultations

Please note my object to policies W3 and W4 (Brooklands Farm) of the draft Local Plan to 2040, for the reasons given below.

- 1. Increased Flooding Risk:** The proposed development at Brooklands Farm poses a significant risk of increased flooding both at Brooklands and downstream in Chestfield and Swalecliffe. The area is already vulnerable, and additional development could exacerbate flooding issues, leading to potential damage to properties and infrastructure. The current flood mitigation measures are insufficient to handle the increased runoff that would result from the development.
- 2. Strain on Health Services:** Local health services are already overstretched, with patients frequently unable to secure beds in hospitals. The additional population brought by the new development would further burden these services, potentially compromising the quality of care for existing residents. It is crucial to ensure that health infrastructure can support the population before allowing further development.
- 3. Traffic Congestion:** The proposed development would significantly increase traffic on local roads. The traffic modelling conducted for the Local Plan was inadequate and does not accurately reflect the potential impact. Increased traffic would lead to congestion, longer travel times, and higher pollution levels, adversely affecting the quality of life for residents.
- 4. Sewage and Water Treatment:** Swalecliffe sewage works are currently unable to cope with existing demand, resulting in serious illness for some visitors to local beaches. This situation is unacceptable for a town known for its seafood tradition and aspiring tourist destination. Further development would exacerbate these issues, leading to potential public health risks and environmental contamination.
- 5. Loss of Agricultural Land:** The development would lead to the loss of some of the best and most versatile agricultural land in the area. Preserving agricultural land is essential for food security and maintaining the local agricultural economy. Once lost, such land is irretrievable, and its loss would have long-term negative consequences.
- 6. Impact on Landscape and Wildlife:** The development would result in the loss of beautiful open landscapes and wildlife habitats, which are crucial for genuine biodiversity. The rural character of the Swalecliffe Brook valley, which serves as an unofficial Green Belt between urban Whitstable and The Blean, would be permanently destroyed. This area should be given protected status to preserve its ecological and aesthetic value.
- 7. Loss of Local Amenities:** The development would reduce the amenity value for local residents, who currently enjoy the rural and scenic environment. The construction and increased population would diminish the quality of life and recreational opportunities for existing residents.

8. Lack of Sustainability: The development is not sustainable. Whitstable is not a suitable location to build houses primarily for Canterbury commuters. Sustainable development should prioritize building homes where there is adequate infrastructure and services to support the population without causing harm to the environment or existing communities.

Conclusion

For these reasons, I strongly object to Policy W4 Brooklands Farm. The potential negative impacts on flooding, health services, traffic, sewage systems, agricultural land, landscapes, wildlife, local amenities, and overall sustainability make this development highly unsuitable. The policy should be reconsidered, and alternative solutions that do not compromise the well-being of current and future residents should be explored.

Please confirm receipt of this email and objection.

Best regards

Mira Homden

