

## Alexander Gunyon

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I STRONGLY OBJECT to policy W4 (Brooklands Farm) of the draft Local Plan to 2040 for the following reasons:

#### SEWAGE

The current sewage system for Whitstable is already unable to cope with the local demand and raw sewage is regularly released into the sea.

The demand from 1200 new properties would only increase the outflows into the sea creating hazardous conditions to marine-life and humans using the water for recreation and health.

It would impact the local economy as the fishing industry would lose business due to its reputation for fishing in contaminated water.

The tourist industry would decline as visitors would opt for alternative seaside destinations that didn't pose a hazard to their health.

#### FLOODING

Rain that currently falls on the higher ground above the town where the housing development is proposed is absorbed into the farmland or runs off into streams.

Rain falling onto a concrete and tarmac landscape would either flood the area or run off into a drainage system unfit to cope with the increased demand leading to further raw sewage released into the sea.

## TRAFFIC AND PARKING

Whitstable town centre is already unable to solve the problem of traffic and parking in the town during peak visitor times or from diversions due to roadworks.

Residents of the new housing wanting to access dentists, doctors, primary schools, pharmacies, independent shops, railway station, youth centre, swimming pool, places to eat, pubs, carnivals and festivals would need a vehicle to drive into town as the distance is impractical to walk.

The impact of extra traffic would create regular gridlock, increase pollution, possibility of accidents and make the town an unpleasant place to live and visit.

## WILDLIFE

At a time when the loss of habitat for wildlife and biodiversity is already a huge concern nationally, the building of 1200 homes on farmland that attracts wildlife (I have witnessed buzzards, kestrels and pheasants) would be a brutal and callous decision against the natural world.

The surrounding area also provides a beautiful and peaceful location for walkers as well as wildlife. I often walked here during lockdown for my well-being at a time of uncertainty and worry.

We have already lost acres of land to the development of Whitstable Heights. Where will it end??? When developers reach the borders of Herne Bay, Faversham or Canterbury???

From Jacqui Cox

