

Save Brooklands Farmland

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I strongly object to policies W3 and W4 (Brooklands Farm) of the draft Local Plan to 2040

Whitstable is unique in that it has green space surrounding the town. We do not want to concrete over such a beautiful part of the county. Whitstable and the surrounding area is already busy enough with traffic we do not want more.

Wildlife will be affected, there will be more congestion and there is the risk of flooding. The sewage system is already not effective and with more houses that will mean even further pollution into our seas.

The infrastructure is not stable enough for further development and people. Hospitals are full, doctors surgeries have long waiting lists and schools are full.

We should be looking after our environments and wildlife rather than destroying them.

I object to this planning proposal.

Kind regards

Karen Billington

1. **Loss of an Area of High Landscape Value** with wonderful rural views of the distant Blean. CCC's Landscape Character Assessment 2020 recommended that CCC should reinforce the open rural setting south of Whitstable and resist development in the A299 New Thanet Way corridor.
2. **This is not a sustainable place to build a large development**, from which (if its like the rest of south Chestfield) more people would be commuting to Canterbury than any other destination, almost all of them by car. It will also contribute to traffic congestion in the north Canterbury area.
3. **Increased flood risk** downstream on the Swalecliffe Brook. At present heavy rain sits on the farmland before is slowly evaporates or trickles into the Brook. Vast areas of storage would be required to accommodate rainwater run-off from any urban development, but this could not be located close to the Brook because that area already floods when the

river level rises over the riverbanks as happened in February.

4. **Lack of health facilities.** Local residents now find they can't secure an appointment with a local GP, and if they need hospital treatment their three-day stay in Margate's hospital is in the hospital corridor due to lack of beds.

5. The local **sewage works cannot cope** with the increasing demand, and regularly releases untreated sewage into the sea, causing instances of serious illness for people on local beaches. The new outfall under construction will not solve this problem.

6. The proposed new junction linking the A299 to Chestfield Rd and South Street would create **huge increases in traffic, and therefore road safety problems, pollution and noise** in residential areas.

7. **Bad for our wildlife.** Seriously negative impact on Biodiversity. There is a lot of insect life associated with the cattle of Brooklands Farm, and consequently there are swallows, house martins, wagtails, numerous bats and no doubt much more that is less easy to see. There is also wildlife on the arable fields, e.g. skylarks

8. Adverse effect on the **Local Wildlife Site** at Convicts Wood. Building 1,400 houses nearby would cause it to be severely degraded and used as a children's recreation area and dog-walking route. Residents would use the area for dumping garden waste, as already happens in comparable areas along the Swalecliffe Brook. Residents' cats would kill off the local wildlife.

9. **Loss of "Best and most versatile"** agricultural land.

10. **CCC needs to recognise that housing developments affect the coastal towns much more severely than Canterbury.** Canterbury can expand to north, east, south and west. Whitstable can only expand southwards, as it is constrained by marshland to the west, and by Herne Bay to the east. What little farmland that remains within easy walking distance of Whitstable is needed for residents' recreation and well-being as well as to preserve the last vestiges of the natural setting of this tourist destination town. Therefore, the farmland between the Blean woodland and the existing urban edge of Whitstable should be given statutory protection.

11. For the reasons listed above, the proposals would be unsustainable and would contravene paragraphs 135c, 168, 173, 180a, 180b, 180d and 191b of the Government's National Planning Policy Framework.

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