

## Alexander Gunyon

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**From:** Mark Fowler [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 19 May 2024 11:32  
**To:** Consultations  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** OBJECTION : Policy R5 - Bread & Cheese Field / Porposed development in Westebere, Canterbury, Kent  
**Categories:** Blue category

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### --Email From External Account--

Dear Canterbury City Counsel..

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH - MORE HOUSES ON A28 RIBBON ARE ILL CONCEIVED & IRRESPONSIBLE

As residents of Westbere we would like to **lodge our formal objection to the proposed development of additional 150 houses on the land called 'the bread and cheese field', behind Bushy Hill Road, Westebere.** We believe this element of the local plan has serious flaws, is ill conceived and not needed in the local area; it will effectively destroy the centuries old identities of Westbere and Hersden. This field has significant charitable significance to Westbere with a 300 year history and traditions that continue today, indeed our 3 children received nominal educational payments from the 'bread an cheese society' while growing up in the village per charitable deeds that hang in the Yew Tree Pub, these traditions and this history are part of Canterbury's rich heritage... lets value it rather than destroy it.

The basis of our objections :

- **FLAWED PLANNING.** Per the recent report produced by ACRA (Alliance of Canterbury Residents Association), Canterbury City Counsel has grossly over stated the population growth for the area and therefore the demand for housing. This development is simply not needed given the significant A28 ribbon developments already approved.
- **SAFETY.** The A28 is an ancient narrow road and the recent large residential and commercial developments have significantly increased traffic and congestion exacerbating pedestrian safety issues due to narrow pavements. With a number of large schools in the immediate area this is a disaster waiting to happen as young children try to get to school. Indeed a local elderly gentleman was killed crossing this road just over a month ago. A local journey of 2 miles now routinely takes in excess of 30 minutes in rush hour with the commensurate negative impact on air pollution and quality of life for residents.
- **DRAINAGE.** With the height of the development on the main road above Westbere Village drainage would significantly increase flood risks down into the village of Westbere and the train lines through run off. Indeed roads in the main village are already subsiding and are not well maintained by the counsel.
- **UNSUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE.** Doctor and Dentist services are already overwhelmed and increases in housing with the commensurate population are simply not sustainable.
- **NEGATIVE BIODIVERSITY IMPACT.** This greenbelt land, along with ancient depleting local woodland and hedgerows provide a vital source of biodiversity, supporting wildlife on a rapidly depleted green space around this side of Canterbury. Known animals on this land include Kestrels, foxes, swallows, bats.....
- **QUALITY OF LIFE.** Local Greenspaces to walk and enjoy nature are important for the positive mental and physical health of the local communities, given the lack of accessible maintained parkland in the area already then open spaces such as fields and woodland are highly valued to build and encourage community and keep a balance between nature and urban sprawl.

In a year of elections we appeal to the common sense of the planing committee to reject this development.

sincerely,

Mark & Karen Fowler

Residents of Westebre : 