

## Alexander Gunyon

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17 May 2024 13:14  
**To:** Consultations  
**Subject:** OBJECTION to Proposed Housing Development on Brookland Farm

**Categories:** Blue category

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I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed housing development on Brookland Farm. While I understand the need for housing, I believe that this specific project raises several significant concerns that must be carefully considered before any development can proceed.

My primary concern is the over-development of this area. Over recent years, we have had very large developments in Chestfield (Grasmere), Herne Bay, Whitstable and Herne. This is on top of the significant number of houses that have been built in this area over the last 10 years. Whilst I understand the need to additional housing, this area does not have the infrastructure to accommodate such large development and Brooklands Farm in particular, is huge.

As a result of the already increased traffic in the area, every evening it can be challenging and difficult to get out of the Sainsbury's roundabout onto the Old Thanet way. On a Friday evening, it is near impossible, with cars queuing for McDonalds. A slip road onto the new Thanet Way will not solve this. All those that live in the 1400 houses proposed at Brooklands Farm will have 1 or more cars and will need to travel to work. The only option for them is to drive to Chestfield or Whitstable stations (it is too far to walk, there is no effective public transport, there are no cycle routes), drive into Canterbury, or get onto the New Thanet way onto the M2. All options are very concerning. With Swalecliffe school resulting in large traffic jams in the morning at Chestfield station, this will make things much worse, and as anyone knows who tries to get in or around Canterbury in the morning, traffic is awful. How will the children of those in these houses get to the schools in Canterbury? I appreciate a secondary school is being built, but I assume this will not be a grammar school, and while Kent still has the Kent Test, many of these students will need to get buses into the Canterbury schools which regularly take over an hour to get from Chestfield to school and back, due to the traffic.

The proposed development on Brookland Farm raises the risk of increased flooding in the surrounding areas. The farm's green fields currently act as natural drainage, absorbing excess rainwater during heavy rainfall and reducing the likelihood of flooding. The replacement of these fields with impermeable surfaces such as buildings and roads would disrupt the natural drainage system and potentially exacerbate flooding issues, placing both existing and future residents at risk.

We are lucky to have excellent healthcare facilities in this area, but it has been clear over the last few years that it is getting harder to get a GP appointment. Recruitment of doctors in Kent is challenging and the new medical school at Kent university will not produce local GPs for many years. I do not understand how facilities such as doctors, dentists and hospitals will cope with such a large development when many developments are already ongoing and putting pressure on services.

Brookland Farm is a precious green field site, offering a vital sanctuary for wildlife and contributing to the overall ecological balance of our community. The destruction of this green space would result in the loss of biodiversity and disrupt the delicate ecosystem that currently thrives in the area. Preserving such natural habitats is essential for maintaining a sustainable environment and ensuring the well-being of future generations.

The proposed development fails to adequately address the potential sewage issues that may arise. Brookland Farm is situated in an area that already faces challenges with sewage infrastructure. The increased strain on the existing system due to the additional housing units could lead to overflows, pollution of water sources, and a decline in water quality. It is essential to thoroughly evaluate and address these concerns to avoid any negative consequences for both residents and the environment.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to reconsider the proposed housing development on Brookland Farm. The traffic situation is already critical and unacceptable, the preservation of this green field site, the mitigation of sewage issues, the protection of wildlife and their habitats, and the prevention of flooding should be of utmost importance. It is crucial to explore alternative options that do not compromise the efficiency of the area, the well-being of our community and environment.

Thank you for considering these concerns and taking the appropriate action.

Gillian Orr