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To: Consultations
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Subject: Objection to Proposed Housing Development on Brooklands Farm
Categories: Blue category

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Subject: Objection to Proposed Housing Development on Brooklands Farm

I am writing to strongly object to the proposed housing development on Brooklands Farm. Whilst housing is an important consideration this specific over-scaled project raises major concerns that greatly outweigh the proposal for a further 1,400 homes and an estimated 3,000 cars. The wider area is already being vastly over developed with almost 1,000 houses currently being built at Whitstable Heights and Grasmere Pasture.

First and foremost, Brookland Farm is a precious green field farming 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 loss of farming land is an alarming possibility, especially at a time when the country is attempting to be more self sufficient in producing food and relying less on imported food. I cannot see how the loss of farmland equates to the government initiative for self sufficiency.

The proposed development fails to adequately address the potential sewage issues that will 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 will inevitably lead to overflows, pollution of water sources, and a decline in water quality. Whitstable is already under considerable strain from a dilapidated sewer system and sewer treatment works. Southern Water has proved to be completely inept at dealing with sewage disposal and further housing on the scale proposed will inevitably lead to further overflow of live sewage for which planning authorities will be responsible. The current case of contaminated water in Devon is an early forerunner of what over development will mean for the supply of clean drinkable water.

The proposed development on Brooklands 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 limiting the likelihood of flooding. The change in climate is now giving far wetter winters and the current winter of 2023/24 is an

example of relentless rain and flooded ground conditions. As we know the proposed development site is clay based and will not easily absorb water. In addition, the replacement of these fields with impermeable surfaces such as building, roads and driveways will further disrupt the natural drainage system and potentially exacerbate flooding issues, placing both existing and future residents at risk.

The infrastructure of the surrounding area is completely inadequate to deal with an additional 1,400 houses and possibly 5,000 additional residents in terms of schools, healthcare, sewage and water supply, roads and transport. The current pressure on existing facilities is at breaking point now and additional pressures brought about by the proposed development will break the already existing infrastructure.

In conclusion, the proposed housing development on Brookland Farm must not proceed. The preservation of this green field site, the mitigation of sewage issues, the protection of wildlife and their habitats, and the prevention of flooding must outweigh all other considerations.

Thankyou
Peter Yarlett

