

Alexander Gunyon

From: [REDACTED]
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To: Consultations
Subject: Objection to Brooklands Farm Development

Categories: Blue category

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I am writing to object to the development at Brooklands Farm. I have lived in Whitstable and Tankerton for [REDACTED] years and in that time have witnessed the continual development and building of houses. Enough is enough!

The majority of new housing is not affordable for young people, who were born here, continue to live and work here, and shared ownership schemes disadvantage them and narrow their options. We cannot keep building more and more houses to satisfy government targets. Whilst composing this email I have been made aware of two sewage discharges into the sea, the existing system cannot cope with what we already have, and the improvements being made will not be enough to cope with increasing demand.

Whitstable is already a traffic nightmare. The roads cannot cope with the flow of traffic at commuting times and the steady stream of traffic caused by visitors at weekends, queuing traffic reduces air quality and contributes to pollution. Developers promise to make road improvements, but these often don't happen, I dread to think how many more accidents there will be at already busy junctions with the existing developments that are desecrating our green spaces, and talking of green spaces, most of these new developments pay lip service to having green areas in their developments, its definitely a case of profit first!

Whilst our local medical services have expanded it currently takes around two weeks to get a telephone appointment to speak to a dr, hospital waiting lists are very long, Kent and Canterbury has been downgraded so QEQM is our local hospital. Given the amount of new housing in Thanet this is ridiculous. My elderly parents waited over 12 hours in a&e until my father could be found a bed, and this was probably considered to be quite good, as many people wait even longer. On visiting him it was clear the service was extremely stretched. Building new houses is just going to put a further strain on a health service that is on its knees as it is. The same with dentists and other healthcare services, we do not have the capacity for more people.

The development at Grasmere Pasture shows that localised flooding is a problem. I walk in the Chestfield area frequently and am very familiar with the area and environmental issues. Currently we only have to have a few days of sun and we get a hosepipe ban so again water supply will be an issue.

Education – the plans talk about extra schools, but there is a national shortage of teachers, so you can build the school but will it be fully staffed? In particular there is a shortage at secondary level for teachers in STEM subjects.

Loss of countryside, loss of wildlife and loss of agricultural land. In fact although I have put this last it is, I think, the saddest thing about this proposal. More and more of Whitstable is becoming a concrete mass, there will be nowhere to walk, to enjoy the countryside, to educate children in nature and farming. Our wildlife is suffering as it is, the houses are not needed, we do not have the infrastructure and it seems to me that this is driven by money.

Again I strongly object to the proposed development at Brooklands Farm.

Yours sincerely

Vickie Elgar

