

Alexander Gunyon

From: Karen Tranquille [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 May 2024 15:02
To: DUFFIELD, Rosie; Consultations
Subject: Objection to Policy W4 Brooklands Farm

Categories: Blue category

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I am writing to lodge my objection to the proposed development of Brooklands Farm.

The fact that this site has even been considered for such development is shocking. It has clearly been chosen purely on the grounds of being one of the cheapest options available as it isn't a brown field site which would need clearing before building could commence.

There are many reasons that this development should not be given permission to proceed. Each one should be sufficient on its own but when considered altogether it is clear and indisputable that this proposition should not proceed.

The land proposed for development is not a brown field site. It is a prime agricultural land. In 1984, the UK's overall food sufficiency was 78%, in 2021 it was 60%. Today, the nation is only 18% self-sufficient in fruit, 55% in vegetables and 71% in potatoes.

Not only does maintaining an agricultural use for the land help with our food production and supplies it has a huge impact on flooding as the fields and hedgerows allow the water to be both absorbed and safely pool in times of heavy rainfall and prevent local flooding. It is well known how local water run off in exceptional weather floods the Chestfield road under the flyover. If the farm is filled with roads, pavements and housing this issue will be considerably worse.

Not only will this lack of natural drainage, soil absorption and in field flooding affect the local roads it will have a significant impact on our local sewage works. Any run off which hits the roads and highways will enter the drainage system and be taken to the treatment works at Swalecliffe. This site is already woefully inadequate for the existing housing and residents, with frequent over flow discharges whenever there is heavy or prolonged rain. This has a huge detrimental environmental impact and affects the quality of life and health of local residents who wish to use the sea on a recreational basis. Such discharges have now been covered in local and national news items which has a negative impact on the tourist industry on which so many local businesses rely.

The Brooklands Farm land connects Whitstable to the Crab and Winkle Way, a local route with significant local history. It is an area of local natural beauty which is an amenity enjoyed by many residents and visitors. When walking from South Street to the Crab and Winkle Way it is possible to enjoy a wide range of natural beauty and biodiversity which would be lost as a result of this development.

Several of the proposed developments are offering new schools as a sweetener to local residents for the builds. In the current climate of falling birth rates and reduced admissions to Year R for 2024 it seems hard to justify this position. There is also inadequate provision for GPs, hospitals and dentists. There can be no building on this scale without additional health and sewerage infrastructure being completed before housing is built.

This is a huge proposed development, when seen as a proportion of the existing size of Tankerton and Swalecliffe it would have a massive impact on the local area. We have already lost a vast swathe of green land for the Whitstable

Heights development. Church Street playing field is also at risk. If this is to proceed, along with the Blean development there will soon be little green countryside left between Whitstable and Canterbury.

I do not believe that adequate consideration have been given to the impact on traffic on the roads or on our train services. Neither Whitstable station, nor Chestfield and Swalecliffe station can be sufficiently upgraded to cope with the potential increase in commuters and leisure travellers.

Many have been shocked by this proposed development. No one can be immune to the level of feeling felt locally about this development. A short walk or drive is filled with objection signs.

To allow this to proceed would be hugely damaging.

I would be most grateful if you can acknowledge that this objection has been formally lodged. I have copied in my local MP whom I hope will represent her constituents in objecting to this plan.

Yours faithfully
Karen Tranquille

